

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013**

Members Present: Co-Chair Bill Bangs, Co-Chair Ron Ziegler, Jon Duerr, Ralph Grathoff, Pam Otto, Phil Zavitz

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Suzi Myers

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento, Peter Suhr, Nicole Wang

1. Opening of Meeting and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Co-Chair Bill Bangs at 7:05 pm.

2. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns

No visitors present.

3. Minutes - Review and Approval

Motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the March 13, 2013, Tree Commission meeting as presented. Motion by Comm. Bangs second by Comm. Ziegler. Voice vote: unanimous; absent Comms. Blaine and Myers; Motion carried at 7:06 pm.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion on City Forestry/Ordinance Plan

Mr. Suhr discussed developing a cost effective City Forestry Plan; the Morton Arboretum assist with the process. The City will meet with members of the Morton Arboretum to discuss the Forestry Plan. Comms. Bangs and Duerr will attend the meeting as well. The Commissioners would like members of the Morton Arboretum to attend a future Tree Commission meeting.

B. Meeting Day Options

Ms. Wang informed the Commissioners of alternate meeting day availability. Due to various conflicts with other City meetings, the available days for Tree Commission meetings are the second monthly Wednesday or Thursday. Motion by Comm. Bangs to change Tree Commission meetings to the second monthly Thursday at 7:00 pm effective May 9, 2013. Voice vote: unanimous; absent Comms. Blaine and Myers; Motion carried at 7:10 pm.

5. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Mr. Suhr reported there are 145 Ash trees scheduled for removal in May. The City is now on track to remove the final group of 1,000 trees of the

approximately 3,000 total Ash trees in the City right of ways. Mr. Suhr noted the Public Services Division would seek the approval of the Government Services Committee for contracted tree removal services for the third group of City Ash trees. After the planned removal of 3,000 City Ash trees is completed, there will be less than 800 Ash trees remaining in the parkways.

Comm. Ziegler inquired about the City's success rate treating Ash trees. Mr. Suhr indicated approximately one third of trees under treatment are lost to EAB. Kramer Tree Service has been treating the City's Ash trees since last season. The cost of treatment is covered by grant funding. Mr. Suhr noted some residents are also treating parkway trees using professional services at their own expense.

Comm. Ziegler described a multi-step procedure for the treatment of EAB and indicated the success rate is generally 90 - 95%. However, the key is to begin treatment before EAB infestation starts. Treatment must be consistent, timely, and utilize the correct type of treatment/ chemicals.

Mr. Adesso noted the City's earliest documented treatment of EAB was in 2010. Mr. Suhr stated that the City may not have been aware of all treatment options in the early stages of the EAB infestation.

Comm. Duerr emphasized the importance of species diversity. Comm. Ziegler reiterated the importance of diversity, an onsite arborist, and a proactive approach to the City's tree population.

Comm. Duerr suggested inviting the new mayor to discuss the future budget to have an arborist or consulting services available to the City and the Tree Commission. Comm. Bangs stated there are actually two separate issues: an arborist and a forestry plan in accordance with City Code.¹

Comm. Ziegler suggested that the Commissioners and City staff may be interested in receiving *Arbor Age*, a free magazine.

Comm. Bangs will contact the new mayor to invite him to an upcoming Tree Commission meeting.

B. Open Chair Discussion

The Commissioners discussed possible candidates for the opening; Bob Andrini, Chris Mattson, and Robert Vandershaaf were mentioned as potential candidates. The Tree Commission and Public Works may make

¹ City Code 12.20.050 A.4. and 5. reference "the City Arborist" and an "Urban Forestry Plan," respectively.

a recommendation to the mayor for the appointment of a Commissioner. Alternately, an individual interested in joining the Tree Commission could approach the mayor directly. Comm. Bangs will announce the opening for a Tree Commissioner at the upcoming Arbor Day celebration. The Commission would like the City to issue a press release reminding residents of the Arbor Day celebration and include a statement regarding the need for a Tree Commissioner.

C. News from Public Works

None reported.

D. Langum Woods Clean Up scheduled for May 9, 2013

Comm. Otto is coordinating this event with two groups of seventh grade students from Haines Intermediate School at 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. Mr. Suhr offered to meet with Comm. Otto prior to May 9th to provide any needed assistance.

Mr. Suhr suggested the Tree Commissioners and City staff enjoy a walk-through of Langum Woods prior to the scheduled Tree Commission meeting on May 9th. The Commissioners and City staff agreed to meet at 6:30 pm on May 9th at the Public Works facility.

6. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee:

None. Commissioner Myers not present.

B. Publicity Committee:

None. Commissioner Blaine not present.

Ms. Wang noted Comm. Zavitz's wife wrote an article regarding Arbor Day which will be published in the Kane County Chronicle. Additionally, the window display at City Hall and upcoming press releases promote the Arbor Day celebration.

C. Arbor Day Committee:

1. Checklist review and final plans: the Commissioners and City staff finalized the details of the Arbor Day celebration on April 26th. The White Oak tree to be planted at Richmond School will be donated by Pederson Company. Pederson will also donate the labor to plant the tree.
2. Writing Contest and Children's Art Contest entries review and selection of winners: the Commissioners selected *Trees in My Life* written by Caroline Wilfong as the winner of the writing contest. *Friends* by Treva Rodemaker was selected as the runner-up.

Each entrant in the Children's Art Contest will receive a Colonial ice-cream coupon; no specific winner or runner-up were selected.

7. Communication

Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

None at this time. Reports will be provided at the upcoming May meeting for the months of March and April, 2013.

8. Comments

A. **Commissioners:** None.

B. **Staff:** None.

C. **Visitors:** None.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Bangs to adjourn meeting; second by Comm. Ziegler. Voice vote: unanimous; absent Comms. Blaine and Myers. Motion carried at 8:22 pm.