

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
RON ZIEGLER, CHAIRMAN
JANUARY 22, 2015**

Members Present: Valerie Blaine, Ralph Grathoff, Raymond Hauser, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Caroline Wilfong, Ron Ziegler

Members Absent: Jon Duerr

Others Present: Chris Adesso, AJ Reineking, Isabel Soderlind

Visitors Present: None

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Comm. Ziegler at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors - Comments and Concerns:

Mr. Adesso introduced AJ Reineking, the new Public Works Manager at the City of St. Charles. Mr. Reineking briefly updated the commissioners on his background and mentioned that he was looking forward to working with the Tree Commission in the future. The Commissioners then introduced themselves.

4. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion by Comm. Myers, seconded by Comm. Blaine to accept and place on file the minutes of the Tree Commission meetings held on September 11, October 15, and November 13, 2014.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Jon Duerr

- Motion carried at 7:08 p.m.

5. Old Business

A. Funding of the Urban Management Forestry Plan

Mr. Adesso stated that Tony Bellafigliore has been working with Phil Graf on Phase I of the Urban Management Forestry Plan (UMFP). Mr. Bellafigliore will be meeting with Mr. Graf next week to review the rough draft of the plan. Mr. Adesso anticipates that Phase I of the UMFP will be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

Public Works has been working on next year's fiscal budget. Urban Forestry's budget is commensurate with this current year; therefore Mr. Adesso anticipates monies will be available to continue on Phase II of the UMFP for next year.

6. **New Business**

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer

All the assessed ash trees in “bad” to “poor” condition were removed last August/September and replaced during the fall planting season. As planned, the remaining parkway ash trees will be reassessed again this spring/summer. Most of these trees are currently being treated professionally by their sponsors (residents) and most of them have remained in good condition. As mentioned above, the Forestry budget will remain similar to this fiscal year. Mr. Adesso is remaining optimistic that these trees will remain “healthy” and will not need to be removed; therefore the Urban Forestry budget can then focus more on maintenance rather than removals and replacements.

B. News and Concerns from Public Works

Due to the milder weather this winter, the Public Services division has been focusing on pruning and raising the canopies on the trees. This past month the urban forestry crews have focused on the southwest quadrant of town.

C. Langum Woods Clean Up:

Commissioner Otto has remained in contact with Nathan and Brian Lingard. The Boy Scout troop has approximately ten scouts available to assist in the Langum Park Clean Up. Commissioner Otto will try to schedule the event on a Saturday between the end of January and the end of March. Public Services will make sure they pick up the trimmings once the clean-up is completed.

D. Commissioner Vacancy

On behalf of the Tree Commission, the Public Works Office contacted two residents that had expressed an interest in joining the Commission. Carol Riordan was interested in the appointment and contacted the Mayor’s Office. Per Tina Nilles, Ms. Riordan is on the agenda to be appointed at the City Council meeting Monday, February 2, 2015.

Commissioner Grathoff and Houser also mentioned that Richard DeMar and Paul Pedersen were also interested in being commissioners but they were uncertain if there would be a conflict of interest since they are both currently contracted by the City.

Isabel Soderlind, will contact the Mayor’s Office and determine if there would be a conflict of interest and if there could be more than nine members on the Commission.

7. **Committee Reports**

A. Education Committee.

In September the Commission motioned to purchase up to twelve copies of the book titled, “Why Would Anyone Cut a Tree Down?” for each school in the district. To date the books have not been ordered. Public Works will order twelve copies of the books in digital form. Commissioner Myers will then distribute the books to the schools once the City has received them.

B. Publicity Committee

Comm. Wilfong and Comm. Myers set up a display promoting Arbor Day at the Wellness Fair at Lincoln School earlier in the evening. Some good contacts were made while they attended the fair.

C. Arbor Day Committee

The Committee reviewed the 2015 Arbor Day Checklist:

Arbor Day is scheduled for 4:00 PM, Friday, April 24, 2015.
 Lincoln Park has been reserved through the Park District from 2:00 to 6:00 PM.

Item To Accomplish	Delegated To	Completed	Comments/Notes
Renting of the Tent	Ms. Soderlind		
Presentation of Colors:	Comm. Otto Comm. Wilfong Comm. Blaine		Contact Troop 5 Lincoln School Cub Master Girl Scout Leader
Contact Midwest Ground Covers for donation of perennials	Comm. Grathoff		
Contact Potential Speakers	Comm. Blaine/Otto Chris Adesso		Witness Tree Jack Pizzo
Contact Ms. Tieche at Munhall School	Comm. Otto		Re: Type of presentation and speaker system needs
Order Speaker system	Ms. Soderlind		Coordinate with Public Services (RJ Recording)
Tree Demonstration	Comm. Grathoff		Contact Chris Scott
Entertainment/Music	Comm. Myers		Contact Rick Weals
Prepare Programs and Invitations	Ms. Soderlind		
Purchase Cookies	Ms. Soderlind		
Set up of Tables/Chairs/Podium	Tony Bellafiore		
Tribute to Trees – Update Website/Den Article	Ms. Soderlind		
Interactive Children’s Activity	Comm. Otto Comm. Blaine Comm. Myers		Leaf Rubbings/Leaf Stamps/Bark Rubbings Need crayons Recycled paper
Planting of Tree on Arbor Day			Contact John Baird at District 303 – determine location

8. Communications

A. Electric and Public Services Tree Activity Reports

Motion by Comm. Myers, seconded by Comm. Blaine to accept and place on file the Electric Division/Public Services Tree Activity Reports for September, October, November and December 2014, as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Jon Duerr

9. Additional Items – Comments

A. Commissioners:

Comm. Myers: Commented that it was a good meeting.

Comm. Otto: Mentioned that she was looking forward to Arbor Day.

Comm. Hauser: Great meeting.

Comm. Blaine: Comm. Blaine invited the commissioners to stop by and visit the new tree exhibit at Creek Bend Native Center on Dean Street, St. Charles.

Comm. Grathoff: None.

Chair. Ziegler: Thanked everyone's participation at this meeting.

Comm. Wilfong: No comments.

B. Staff and Visitors:

AJ Reineking: Commented that he was very excited to work with this engaged and committed committee. He is looking forward to working with this committee in the future.

Chris Adesso: Mr. Adesso mentioned Geneva's Natural Resource Committee was holding their Wine, Cheese & Trees 2015 Event on March 21, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. This fund raiser is a formal event held at Persinger Recreation Center on Peck Road. Tickets can be purchased in advanced or at the door for \$30. The monies go directly toward the Geneva's Natural Resources Committee's initiatives and activities. Mr. Adesso has attended in the past and it was a fun and entertaining night with the proceeds going towards a good cause.

Mr. Adesso also requested the committee to consider the concept of re-branding and re-naming the Tree Commission to a natural resources and urban forestry committee. The committee would broaden its scope to all natural resources, urban forestry and sustainability initiatives. Mr. Adesso will discuss this concept further at the next Tree Commission meeting.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Comm. Grathoff, second by Comm. Otto to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Jon Duerr

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