

February 10, 2016

Chairman Thomas DeRoss called the meeting of the Tipp City Tree Board to order on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 5:15 p.m. Other Board Members in attendance included Joanna Pittenger and Adam Blake. Also in attendance were Streets and Parks Superintendent Jim Asher, Tipp City Arborist John Montgomery, Board Secretary Linda Michalak, and former Board Secretary Kelly Rowlands.

Citizens present: None

Swearing in of Board Member

Former Board Secretary Kelly Rowlands swore in re-appointed member Thomas DeRoss, whose 3-year term expires December 2018.

Election of Officers

Mr. Blake **moved to nominate Mr. DeRoss as Chairman of the Tree Board and Ms. Pittenger as Vice Chairman of the Tree Board**, seconded by Ms. Pittenger. **Motion carried.** Ayes: Blake, Pittenger and DeRoss. Nays: None.

Minutes

Chairman DeRoss asked for discussion. Being no further discussion, Ms. Pittenger **moved to approve the December 9, 2015 meeting minutes as written**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss and approved. Mr. Blake abstained, having been absent from the December meeting. **Motion carried.** Ayes: Pittenger and DeRoss. Abstained: Blake. Nays: None.

Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Montgomery informed the Board that the City's second arborist is taking a position as a lineman and that the City is currently looking to replace the arborist. It was suggested that Wendi VanBuren might be able to assist in the City's job search.

Packets on the Asian Longhorned Beetle were distributed by Mr. Asher. If beetles were to be discovered, all trees within a quarter mile would be removed. Mrs. Michalak was given literature to display in the foyer for Arbor Week.

New Business**Tree Planting/Removal Requests**

The Board discussed and concurred on the following request:

- 221 N. 7th St. – Remove by City 2/10/2016

Tree Board 2016 Plan

Annual coloring contest for second graders will continue, as well as distribution of saplings at elementary school for first graders. Coloring sheets will be distributed by March 22, 2016 at the elementary school, with a deadline of April 6, 2016. Saplings will be chosen by Mr. Asher, taking price into consideration as well as choice of a hardy variety.

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After discussion on location, tree planting on Arbor Day, April 29, 2016, will be held at 10:00 a.m. in City Park. Three oak trees will be planted.

Tree labeling project in City Park by Eagle Scout Hunter Parrish is ongoing.

A tree pruning class will be held at the Kyle Park gazebo on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Mr. Blake will continue attending the Tree Academy.

Mr. Blake **moved to approve the Annual plan**, seconded by Ms. Pittenger. **Motion carried.** Ayes: Blake, Pittenger and DeRoss. Nays: None.

25-A Phase 2 Tree Planting

Small trees are recommended for this planting. Spots have already been chosen for the trees. There are power lines on the East side, so small trees should be a proper choice. Board members will meet on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room to choose varieties. Mr. Asher will check varieties from Phase 1 to avoid repetition.

Old Business

Mr. DeRoss inquired about the status of ash tree removal. Mr. Montgomery reported that 8 of the 12 big dead trees are down and 4 remain to be removed at Tippecanoe and Miles. There are still about a half dozen trees from the previous list that will be removed after that. After all the trees are down, stump removal will commence. Mr. Montgomery said that more than half of the ash trees are gone and the big trees are almost gone. The biggest ones were out this fall.

Mr. Blake asked about the plan to plant new trees to replace the ash trees. Mr. Asher wants to concentrate on replanting in hard-hit neighborhoods first after knowing his budget. Miles Avenue needs more trees. He suggested not to offer variety, but community members could ask if they had a preference. We should let the community know what the plan will be regarding replanting. Monoculture should be avoided. The board will make suggestions for varieties of trees, which will not include linden trees or pear trees. The Tree Board will survey neighborhoods and make the plan. Trees will be planted in spring and fall.

Miscellaneous**Tree Academy Report**

Mr. Blake has attended the first two seminars and found them very informative. He suggested that it should be a requirement for future Tree Board members to attend the Tree Academy.

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Regarding city boundary green space, Tipp City has placed a great emphasis on green space. Compared to other communities, we have an exorbitant amount of green space, which is wonderful. Mr. Blake felt compelled to state that the financial commitment a community can make which will be the greatest investment for that community is trees.

2016 Tree City USA Awards

This year's awards ceremony will be in West Carrollton on April 22, 2016. Ms. Pittenger, Mr. Blake, Mr. Asher, Mr. Montgomery, and Mrs. Michalak will attend. Mr. DeRoss is uncertain at this time.

Adjournment

Chairman DeRoss asked for further discussion or comments. There being none, Mr. DeRoss **moved for adjournment**, seconded by Ms. Pittenger and unanimously approved. **Motion carried**. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____



Board Chairman, Thomas DeRoss

ATTEST: _____



Linda Michalak, Board Secretary