

April 13, 2016

Chairman Thomas DeRoss called the meeting of the Tipp City Tree Board to order on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at 5:17 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 Arborists John Montgomery and Anthony Freels, and Board Secretary Linda Michalak.

Citizens present: None.

Minutes

Chairman DeRoss asked for discussion. Being no further discussion, Mr. Blake **moved to approve the February 10, 2016, meeting minutes as written**, seconded by Mrs. Pittenger, and unanimously approved. **Motion carried.**

New Business***Tree Planting/Removal Requests***

The Board discussed and concurred on the following requests:

- 16 N. 3rd St. – Remove by City 4/13/2016
- 26 N. Tippecanoe Dr. – Remove and Plant by City 4/13/2016
- 206 S. 2nd St. – Remove by City 4/13/2016
- 92 Kiser – Remove by City 4/13/2016

The Board discussed and determined the matter merited further investigation:

- 215 N. Garber – Jim Asher will contact resident 4/13/2016

Mr. Asher stated that the resident's neighbor had trees planted in his yard and not the curb lawn because there is a huge water main running down the curb lawn, the supply line from the water tower. There is only one tree left in the curb lawn on that side of the street. The resident has a flowering crab in her yard, and Mr. Asher is concerned that there is not room for another tree. Perhaps a smaller tree would work. In this case, because of the water main, the City would plant the tree. Mr. Asher will contact the resident for further discussion.

Ash Trees on Brookhill Woods Lane – Safety Concern

Mr. Montgomery stated that there are some ash trees on the opposite side of the creek from the parking lot by the Boy Scout building. There is also a power line back there. It is not curb lawn. Mr. DeRoss queried that in looking down the creek from Third Street, is it on the left side? Mr. Montgomery concurred and stated that the trees are very large and most likely dead. People living nearby are concerned about their houses and the power lines, and because of this the trees will be taken out.

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Arbor Day Events, April 29, 2016

First Grade Presentation

This will be done at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, April 29. Each first grader will receive a blue spruce seedling. Mrs. Pittenger stated that she and Mrs. Michalak met before the meeting to go over details of this presentation.

Second Grade Coloring Contest

The first place winner of a \$20 gift card to Cairns Toys is Emily Mourouzis. Second place winner is Max Gustavson, who will receive a \$10 gift card to Cairns Toys. There were 51 entries this year. The Board discussed the possibility of handing out a small prize, possibly small bags of candy, to all 51 entrants. That will be determined. The Board stated that the children did a very nice job this year, saying, "Every single entry was fantastic." Mrs. Michalak will take the awards to the school.

Tree Planting and Proclamation – City Park at 10:00 a.m.

Mrs. Pittenger asked who would be participating at City Park and suggested that Mr. Blake and Mr. DeRoss attend, as Mrs. Pittenger and Mrs. Michalak could run late at the school with the first graders. The mayor should also be there to read the proclamation. The proclamation has been given to the City Manager's office. Three pin oaks will be planted. KIT-TV will be recording the event.

2016 Tree City USA Awards

The annual awards luncheon will be held on April 22, 2016, in West Carrollton. Attending will be Mrs. Pittenger, Mr. Blake, Mr. Asher, Mr. Montgomery, and Mrs. Michalak.

Old Business

Ash Tree Removal Update

Mr. Montgomery stated that all trees from the old list have been removed except for one, and four more from the new list will be removed by Friday. Mr. DeRoss commented that the street looks very different without all of the old trees. Mr. Blake inquired as to how many trees are going to be planted this fall. Mr. Asher stated that approximately 25 will be planted due to lack of funds for more. Mr. DeRoss suggested that we ask for a bigger budget increase for 2017. Mr. Asher stated that we need to boost the budget over the next few years to replace trees. Mr. DeRoss suggested that a well-thought-through approach to replanting should be presented to City Council. Mr. Asher stated that with what we are planting now, in 25 years the City will look great. He stated that, as always, the arborists are doing a great job. Mr. Montgomery stated that all big neighborhoods are done. Mr. DeRoss asked Mr. Asher if it is his recommendation at this point that we wait for requests for tree removals, and Mr. Asher said that unless we see a dangerous situation, we will wait for requests.

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Mr. Blake suggested that the Tree Board should make a formal presentation to City Council and asked when the budget is developed. Mr. Asher said that the budget work is done in September/October.

Mr. DeRoss would like to add an agenda item to the next Tree Board meeting entitled Tree Planting Plan and Budget. Mr. Blake asked Mr. Asher if it would be possible to go to City Council with a five-year projection; the Council would then understand that the increased budget will not be a one-year need.

Mr. Asher stated that if 50 trees are removed in the curb lawn, we will need to replace them with at least as many trees. We are still planting trees in the parks as well, because trees have been taken out in the parks. There is a combination of park trees and curb lawn trees. This year we should be able to plant approximately 50 trees. In previous years we have planted closer to 30 trees. For the next few years, a budget allowing for 60 trees to be planted annually would be very helpful.

Mr. DeRoss asked Mr. Asher to bring a sheet to the next meeting detailing the number of trees that have been removed, or a reasonable estimate thereof. Mr. Asher stated that a ballpark figure over the last year is 57 trees removed, curb lawn and park. Mr. Montgomery stated that we have removed approximately 60 trees a year over the last three years. He stated that when he was first hired, "normal" was about 12 trees annually, and the City was planting about 25. Mr. DeRoss stated that we need to share that information with City Council. Normal is about 12, we tried to plant 25, now we are removing 60 and need to put back at least as many.

Mr. Montgomery thinks there are about 75 ash trees left. The total amount of ash trees had been approximately 250 trees. Mr. Asher states that we will need about \$15,000 a year for 60 trees. We had asked for \$10,000 this year. Mr. DeRoss would like to see numbers on a single sheet of paper to present to City Council. He wants to show what a normal year looks like, what we have done, what it is going to cost, and what our plan is. Also, we should indicate the diversity of trees to be planted. He suggested that the entire Tree Board attend the Council meeting to make the case.

Miscellaneous
2016 Annual Plan

Mr. Asher stated that the 2016 Annual Plan was approved. There were no questions, no feedback, and no comment about the increase in the budget.

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Tree Academy Report

Mr. Blake stated that Mrs. Pittenger is going to assist him this summer regarding his Tree Academy project, which is going to be mapping out West Edge and making a replanting plan. He would like to have that as an example for City Council. This would show Council what a plan looks like, and it would benefit the Tree Academy. Mr. Blake and Mrs. Pittenger are going to work on this in June and July. When asked if Mr. Blake is enjoying the Tree Academy, he replied, "Oh yes! Immensely! I am learning a lot."

Stump Removal

Mr. Asher stated that they are working on the stump removal evenings and weekends, so the project will be ongoing. Mr. DeRoss wondered if that was coming out of the tree budget. Mr. Asher stated that he has tree maintenance in the parks and streets, and he has used every penny of it. He doesn't believe it will be able to be done in the fall; he will have to wait until the spring of 2017 to remove additional stumps. Mr. DeRoss asked what the budget is for stump removal, and Mr. Asher replied that it used to be \$3000 or \$4000 annually. The cost per stump is dependent upon the size of the tree. Mr. DeRoss asked if we need to ask for more money for stump removal, and Mr. Asher replied that this should be okay.

Spring Tree Planting

Mr. Asher stated that a variety of trees has been planted. Three memorial trees have been planted in Kyle Park. Mr. Blake asked what trees are being planted on the left-hand side of S. Hyatt. Mr. Asher said that some are Hornbeam and that Brown's Nursery planted them.

Mr. Asher gave an update on the situation on Garber where we had to put trees in the yard. He stated that some subdivisions do not allow trees in the curb lawn, such as Cottonwood and Spring Hill. Mr. Blake mentioned that in his Tree Academy class, it was taught that if a city planner is allowed to design the tree scheme for the city, there would not be any trees, because they do not want anything in the way of anything. This idea of no trees in the curb lawn is because the planner does not want trees in the way of city services. He is hopeful that the pendulum will begin to swing the other way regarding walkability and livability. Mr. Asher stated that in looking at Spring Hill now, the locust trees planted in the yards have grown so big that they have almost come together, so the effect is very similar. "If you ask a tree whether it wants to be planted in the curb lawn or planted in the yard, the tree would prefer the yard."

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Adjournment

Chairman DeRoss asked for further discussion or comments. There being none, Mr. Blake **moved for adjournment**, seconded by Ms. Pittenger and unanimously approved. **Motion carried**. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED: _____



Board Chairman, Thomas DeRoss

ATTEST: _____



Linda Michalak, Board Secretary