

June 8, 2016

Chairman Thomas DeRoss called the meeting of the Tipp City Tree Board to order on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 5:16 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 Anthony Freels, and Board Secretary Linda Michalak.

Citizens present: George Lovett.

Minutes

Chairman DeRoss asked for discussion. Being no further discussion, Mr. Blake **moved to approve the April 13, 2016 meeting minutes as written**, seconded by Mrs. Pittenger and approved. **Motion carried.** Ayes: Pittenger, Blake, and DeRoss. Nays: None.

Items Not on the Agenda

There was a late tree removal request for 805 Westedge that could not be added to the agenda on time. It will be discussed below in the Tree Planting/Removal Requests section.

New Business

Tree Planting/Removal Requests

The Board discussed and concurred on the following requests:

- 148 Kiser Drive – Planting of tree by City 6/8/2016
- 304 N. Hyatt Street – Removal of tree by Owner 6/8/2016
- 120 N. Hyatt Street – Removal of tree by City 6/8/2016
- 430 S. Second Street – Removal of tree by City 6/8/2016
- 203 N. Third Street – Removal and planting of tree by City 6/8/2016
- 805 Westedge – Removal of tree by City 6/8/2016

Discussion on tree plantings and removals was as follows:

1. 148 Kiser Drive – Mr. DeRoss stated that this is the area where many ash trees have been removed and inquired as to whether this person is aware that this area is part of our tree planting/replacement process. Mr. Freels stated that he was not sure. Mr. Blake asked if the ivory silk lilac was on our list, and Mr. DeRoss was uncertain if we would be able to obtain it for the resident. Mrs. Michalak stated that when Mrs. Baltus was in to fill out the request, she had asked for a pear tree and would like a flowering tree. Mr. DeRoss suggested a hornbeam. Mr. Blake suggested that we communicate the depth of our planting schedule and when/if we can replace with that exact tree. We will do what we can relative to species based on cost.

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2. 304 N. Hyatt Street – Mr. Lovett was present at the meeting and spoke to the Board. The building has been vacant for 8-10 years, and it is now hard to see traffic when leaving the parking lot. It is a dangerous situation. The trees are not interfering with electric lines at this time. Mr. Lovett assumed that removing the trees would be his responsibility since they are not dead or dying. He does not want the trees gone but feels it is necessary. Mrs. Pittenger commented that they are beautiful, healthy ironwood trees and Mr. Lovett agreed, but the concern for safety is paramount.

Mr. DeRoss agreed that there is a clear traffic issue and that the small tree just outside the driveway should come down. The Board would authorize removal of that tree from a hazardous perspective. The larger one to the south could be trimmed up far enough, after the first tree is removed, to increase visibility. The City will do the trimming. Mr. Lovett was amenable to this plan.

Mr. Blake discussed the landscaping plan for the entire building with Mr. Lovett. Mr. Lovett also mentioned a third tree on the north side of the property. Mr. Blake suggested that this tree could be trimmed as well when the arborist is working on the other two trees.

Mr. Blake moved that the City remove the small tree and trim the second and third trees and revisit the issue next year, pending approval by the City Arborist. If the arborist feels the trees cannot be trimmed and saved, then the City will remove. Mrs. Pittenger seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

3. 120 N. Hyatt Street – Mr. Asher stated that it looked as though this ash tree was topped a little while ago and never made it through. It is now in sorry shape. The owner did not want the tree removed prior to this time.
4. 430 S. Second Street – There is no tree in the curb lawn. There is an ash tree on the side where the pipes are, but it is not in the curb lawn. Mr. Asher stated that the City may have planted this tree for her, but he is not certain. The tree is not the responsibility of the City. Mrs. Pittenger moved to decline the request for tree removal because there is no tree in the curb lawn, Mr. Blake seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
5. 203 N. Third Street – This tree is in distress and needs to be taken down. The board unanimously approved removal and replanting.
6. 805 Westedge – This is an ash tree that is at least 80% dead. The board unanimously approved removal of this tree.

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Old Business

Ash Tree Removal Update

Mr. Freels stated that everything that was on the list from last time has been completed. Mr. DeRoss asked if there are any neighborhoods that are being targeted at this point. Mr. Asher stated that the City is trying to remove the bigger trees first and then work its way down. He mentioned that on Tippecanoe there are some middle-sized trees that will be the next ones removed. Mr. Freels stated that the City is trying to get electric work done by the school while school is out of session. Mrs. Pittenger stated that the bad ones on Westedge, Tippecanoe, N. Garber, and Miles are just about gone. There are a few on Tippecanoe near Amokee that still need to be removed. There was one recently removed at the corner of Broadway and Hyatt. Mr. Blake asked if there are any left in the park. Mrs. Pittenger says there is a dead pine near the concession stand. Mr. Asher stated that there are five on the bottom part of Hathaway Park and three on the top part that need to come down as soon as possible.

Mr. DeRoss complimented the new hornbeams on the way to the YMCA and stated that the nursery did a very nice job. The trees look healthy and are doing well.

Miscellaneous

Tree Academy Report

Mr. Blake stated that he and Mrs. Pittenger will be scheduling the planning of the replanting and inventory of most of Westedge. They will do a planting plan. They will work together before his next class begins.

Mr. DeRoss asked about the status of the 25-A planting project. Mr. Asher stated that this will be a fall project. Mr. DeRoss asked about the status of part 2, and Mr. Asher stated that the tree varieties were submitted but that is all he knows at this point. Mr. Asher said that the other ones are set to be planted in October or late September.

Stump Removal

Mr. Carl Jolliff is removing stumps. He has a relatively new job and is working 10-12 hours a day. He is removing stumps on weekends, so this process has been slower. He is a little more than halfway done. Mr. Asher just informed him of three more stumps that were missed in the Tippecanoe area, and Mr. Jolliff will remove those. Mr. Asher is hopeful that this project will be complete in the next few weeks.

Fall Tree Planting

Mr. Asher will work with Mr. Blake and Mrs. Pittenger on their planting project. He would like that to be a priority for any leftover funds he may have. Mr. Blake stated that the inventory will be done, a plan will be created, and this will be given to Mr. Asher for his comment/suggestions. Once it is approved, it could be brought in front of the City for funding. This will be talked about at the next Tree Board meeting.

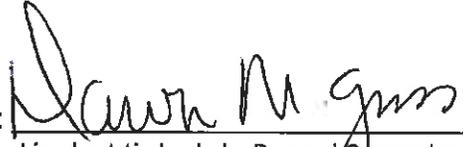
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Mr. DeRoss mentioned a 3-5 year projection for City Council. He would like a recap of how many trees have been lost, how many have been replaced, and a 3-5 year projection. Mr. Blake concurred that it would be nice for Council to have that. He thinks Council would appreciate this information ahead of time. "Trying to get a council to think beyond tomorrow is always a good idea." If a five-year projection could be created, it could be brought to a meeting, and the argument that "it is the only investment you make that actually appreciates in value" could be made. Mr. Asher stated that 57 trees were removed in 2015 in the curb lawn. We used to plant 20 trees in a year. Mr. DeRoss asked when the budget process starts, and Mr. Asher replied August. Mr. DeRoss suggested that when Mr. Blake and Mrs. Pittenger work on their project, the Board could also put together a projection for a longer term plan. Mr. Blake agreed that going to Council with a plan would be a good idea. As an example, there are approximately 200 trees to be replaced, and we would like to tackle that in five years, and here is how it can be done. Mr. DeRoss added that "here is why, and here are the benefits."

Adjournment

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

APPROVED: 
Thomas DeRoss, Board Chairman

ATTEST: 
~~Linda Michalak, Board Secretary~~ Linda Kern
Dawn M. Gross