

June 10, 2020

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and Ohio's stay-at-home order, the Tipp City Tree Advisory Board held its June 10, 2020 regular Board Meeting using GoToMeetings, a remote meeting platform. Public Works Superintendent Tony Hunt and Board Secretary Laura Tobias were physically present at the Tipp City Government Center. Chairman Thomas DeRoss and Vice Chairman Karen Jackson dialed in using the GoToMeetings system.

Other participants who dialed into the meeting include: Chris Eisenbarger, Katrina Wahl, and Rachel Begley.

No press called in.

Chairman Thomas DeRoss called the meeting of the Tipp City Tree Advisory Board to order on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:17 pm.

Absence

Ms. Jackson moved to **excuse Adam Blake from the meeting**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes

Ms. Jackson noted an error on page 2, line 3. She requested the word "inventory" be changed to "lottery". Ms. Jackson **moved to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes with the noted change**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. **Minutes were unanimously approved.**

New Business

Tree Planting/Removal Requests

- 316 N. Third – Removal of Curb Lawn Tree by the City
 - Request states, "tree is very old and poses a threat to falling onto the house; roots have torn up sidewalk."

Mr. DeRoss commented the tree looked mature and healthy, however there are some limbs fairly close to the house. Today that tree would not be planted there because it doesn't really fit.

Ms. Chris Eisenbarger spoke on behalf of her parents, Alan and Suzanne Twehues. She stated when it storms, they are worried the tree is going to fall on the house. They are 88 years old, never leave the house, and spend the majority of their time in the living room where the tree overhangs. She also stated the roots have caused damage to their retaining wall.

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Ms. Jackson noticed some dead branches in the tree as well as some branches hanging over the home, and recommended they be removed. Ms. Jackson said the tree looked really healthy and it would be a shame to remove the tree.

Mr. DeRoss explained their role on the Tree Board. He said it is very difficult for the Board to recommend taking down a healthy tree. Any issues with dead wood are the homeowners' responsibility, and he understands that is a challenge for an elderly couple.

Mr. Hunt agreed the tree was healthy and the role of the Tree Board is to protect trees, not necessarily property. He added that any elevation difference greater than two inches in sidewalk panels is requested/required to be replaced. He stated he did not know what the elevation difference was at that address.

Mr. DeRoss asked Mr. Hunt to measure the sidewalk there prior to the next meeting. Mr. Hunt agreed to measure.

Ms. Jackson inquired about having the sidewalk ground. Ms. Eisenbarger stated the sidewalk is raised right outside the house, and there is an additional piece of sidewalk that goes to the curb, which has been there as long as her parents owned the house, and said it is definitely raised.

Mr. DeRoss stated it is unlikely they would recommend to have the tree removed, however the dead wood and the limbs overhanging the house could be trimmed by a professional to give her parents some peace of mind. He added the tree does not look like it is going to fall down, because it is healthy.

Ms. Jackson agreed it looked very sturdy, and that the Tree Board cannot recommend removing a healthy tree. They can make a recommendation on how to make them less of a hazard, but not recommend removing it.

Ms. Eisenbarger added the tree roots have buckled their retaining wall. Ms. Jackson said she did not see anything about that in the notes.

Mr. DeRoss said he has had some similar issues, he wishes the tree wasn't planted, but it was, and it is simply an issue that will have to be dealt with, but it is not a reason for removing the tree.

Ms. Eisenbarger asked if the City will come out to trim the tree. Mr. DeRoss stated that is the responsibility of the homeowner.

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Mr. DeRoss also added if a professional comes out and has a different opinion with respect to the health of the tree, the Tree Board will reconsider.

Ms. Jackson **moved to deny the request for removal**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- 223 W. Main Street – Removal of Curb Lawn Tree by the City
 - Request states, "Maple tree is dead."

Ms. Jackson and Mr. DeRoss agreed the tree is completely dead.

Mr. DeRoss **moved to approve the request for removal**, seconded by Ms. Jackson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- 282 N. Fourth Street – Planting of Curb Lawn Tree by Owner
 - Request states, "Replacement of tree that fell in 2018 with a Maple October Glory to add shade and enhance property."

Katie Wahl stated she was waiting for the tree stump to be removed, so she could replace the tree. She stated she wants to replace it with a Maple October Glory or something equivalent, based on what the nurseries have available this summer.

Mr. DeRoss asked if the curb lawn would support a tree of that size. Ms. Wahl said it would. Mr. Hunt agreed, stating there are a lot of large trees on that street and that curb lawn would support it.

Ms. Jackson **moved to approve the request for planting**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. DeRoss noted there was a dead tree in the curb lawn across the street from this address, in front of Indian Creek. Mr. Hunt said he would look into it.

- 107 E. Walnut Street – Planting of Curb Lawn Tree by City
 - Request states, "Add shade and enhance property."

Ms. Wahl stated she would like to amend the request, and would like to plant the tree by Owner, instead of by the City.

Mr. DeRoss **moved to approve the amended request for planting**, seconded by Ms. Jackson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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Ms. Wahl asked if she needed to coordinate with Mr. Hunt regarding exactly where she would place it in the curb lawn. Mr. Hunt said his only request is that it is three feet from any property line, so that as it gets bigger it doesn't creep into a neighbor's property.

- 204 W. Broadway – Removal of Curb Lawn Tree by the City
 - Request states, "Tree is not thriving, while all the others planted at the same time are."

Mr. DeRoss asked if it was the really small tree in between the two healthy trees on the Fifth Street side.

Rachel Begley confirmed that was correct. She said they are treated every other year, but this particular tree is about half the size of the others, and is not thriving.

Ms. Jackson commented there are a lot of dead branches.

Ms. Jackson asked if a tree could be planted in its place. Mr. DeRoss stated he feels the others provide a lot of shade, and he is unsure they would find a tree that would do well between the other two. Ms. Jackson agreed.

Ms. Begley added that she believes the reason the others are thriving is because they are soaking up all the sun in that area, and another tree would probably not do well.

Ms. Jackson **moved to approve the request for removal**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Begley asked if the tree crew would notify her when they were removing the tree, as she is worried the wrong one will be removed. Mr. Hunt said they typically don't notify the homeowner, but he will try to request that she get notified.

- 216 S. Seventh – Removal of Curb Lawn Tree by the City
 - Request states, "Tree is dead."

Mr. DeRoss and Ms. Jackson agreed it is definitely dead.

Mr. DeRoss **moved to approve the request for removal**, seconded by Ms. Jackson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Jackson suggested another tree be planted on South Seventh Street. Mr. DeRoss reminded Ms. Jackson that their budget is quite limited, and they may need to wait on that.

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Ms. Jackson added she noticed another dead curb lawn tree on the North Side of Dow at Fourth Street. Mr. Hunt stated he knew where she was referring to, and he would add it to the removal list if it is dead.

Urban Forestry Management Plan

Ms. Jackson said she didn't have anything to add, but she suggested the Board divide up the City by streets or blocks to inventory trees, however she mentioned she isn't confident in identifying the tree species.

Mr. DeRoss reminded the Board they had planned to begin the tree inventory at Westedge. He suggested he and Ms. Jackson plan a time to meet and try to get started on the inventory, making an attempt to identify the species. Mr. Hunt said he would be willing to meet with them, although he doesn't know how much time he can commit to it during the workday. Mr. Hunt confirmed Tippecanoe is done, and he suggested a good street to inventory would be Garber or Miles.

Ms. Jackson inquired about a Fall Tree Sale. Mr. Hunt stated the tree sale has always been done around the time of the Mum Festival. He added that distributing the trees while maintaining social distancing rules is not an issue.

Mr. Hunt, Ms. Jackson, and Mr. DeRoss all agreed upon a Fall Tree Sale.

Mr. DeRoss asked Ms. Tobias if she was aware of previous tree sales. Ms. Tobias confirmed she was.

Mr. DeRoss asked Mr. Hunt to check into tree availability for a sale. Mr. Hunt said oak trees and white pine trees were popular in previous sales. He said he would have something put together for the next meeting, scheduled for August 12th. The sale could begin on August 13th, the day after the next Board meeting. He suggested the order deadline by September 5th, and a pickup on Saturday, September 19th.

Ms. Jackson suggested promoting the tree sale in the Tippecanews and also on the utility bills. She didn't recall that being done in previous years. Mr. DeRoss added that it should be advertised in the Tippecanoe Gazette. He asked Ms. Tobias if she could look into the advertising. She said yes, she could have it advertised with the July utility bill.

Other Business

Tree Removal and Planting Update

Mr. Hunt updated the Board regarding the fall tree planting, stating he would like to continue in the Westedge neighborhood. He stated his crew can handle about twenty trees in the curb lawn at a time with a successful survival rate, in addition to what is also

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planted in the park system. He wants to do a fill in on either Amokee or Kiser. He added those streets are a lot like Westedge because some trees are there, and some are not. He suggested they fill in the street by putting 6-8 trees on each street. Mr. DeRoss agreed, and inquired if a letter would be required. Mr. Hunt said the planting would occur in September or October, and letters would need to be sent to the property owner. Mr. Hunt stated he has learned that the survival rate is much better during a fall planting versus a spring planting. Mr. Hunt concluded he would like to plant on Warner, Kiser, and possibly Amokee, depending on the numbers.

Mr. DeRoss and Ms. Jackson agreed.

Mr. Hunt stated he would have some options regarding species at the next meeting, and the Board can make the final decision.

Mr. Hunt announced Mr. Samples was not present, so there would be no tree removal update.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. DeRoss inquired about signing the minutes.

Ms. Tobias stated the other Boards are waiting to sign previous meeting minutes until they meet in person, and Mr. DeRoss confirmed he would do the same.

Ms. Jackson mentioned City Council would be meeting in person the following week, and asked if the Tree Board could plan on the August meeting being in person. Ms. Tobias mentioned the City Council Chambers were being refurbished, so no other Boards have been informed of future meeting plans.


Adjournment

Chairman DeRoss asked for further discussion or comments. There being none, **Ms. Jackson moved for adjournment**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

ATTEST:


Laura Tobias, Board Secretary

APPROVED:


Thomas DeRoss, Board Chairman