

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
MARCH 9, 2017
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 S. Whittle Ave., Olney, Illinois, with Brandy McKinney presiding.

AGENDA #2 “ROLL CALL” The following Tree Board members were present: Brandy McKinney, Andrea McDowell, Chris Simpson, Kelsie Sterchi, Paige Abell, and Bill Page.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 12, 2017” Mrs. McKinney moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on January 12, 2017, seconded by Mrs. McDowell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #4 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public was present.

Bill Caulfield entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

AGENDA #5 “UPDATES”

5-A “Tree City U.S.A. Designation” Mrs. Sterchi reported that the City’s Tree City U.S.A. application had been approved at the national level. She had received an e-mail the week before that the Tree City U.S.A. items were being boxed and shipped.

To keep the designation, the Tree Board would need to re-apply each year, but the re-application process would be much more simple than the initial application.

Mr. Page asked where the road signs would be placed. Mrs. Sterchi replied that placement would depend on the size of the signs. It would be preferred for them to be at some of the entrances to town.

5-B “Mayor’s Monarch Pledge” Mrs. McDowell had been spearheading research on creating Monarch Butterfly habitats, and more specifically, a milkweed garden on the back side of the Olney Public Library property, in conjunction with the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge.

Mrs. McDowell had applied online with various organizations for free milkweed seeds. Additionally, her Rotary Club (Rotary Club of Richland County) was very interested in assisting with the project. The Club had written for a grant to create a beautiful Monarch Butterfly habitat at the Olney Public Library that could possibly include a walkway, landscape stone, signage, and Garden Phlox. The Club was also interested in adding some milkweed at Rotary Park. Mrs. McDowell expected that the Rotary Club of Richland County could receive anywhere from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 for such a project.

Mrs. McKinney suggested that Mrs. McDowell speak with some members of the Audubon Society for additional input on planting and germination of milkweed seeds and plants.

Understanding that Mrs. McDowell had applied for free seeds, Mrs. McKinney wondered if any would be eligible for give-a-way this year. The Board felt that if seeds were received this year that they could be given away this year. The project Mrs. McDowell was working on would most likely not take off until 2018.

5-C “National Wildlife Federation Tree Give-a-Way/Arbor Day Planning” In relation to Agenda Item 5-B, Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that she would like to schedule a date where Tree Board members could be present so that Mayor Vaughn could sign a physical Mayor’s Monarch Pledge, and also a proclamation for Arbor Day.

Thanks to correspondence being received from the Tree City U.S.A. and Mayor’s Monarch Pledge affiliates, new grant opportunities were being offered. The Board had expressed interest in applying for a grant with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for free, Illinois-native trees to be given away to the public. Mrs. Sterchi reported that the City/Tree Board would be granted 300 such seedlings to give away, and suggested that the seedlings be given in conjunction with an Arbor Day event. The Board was in agreement to give away the trees for Arbor Day (April 28, 2017).

Mrs. McKinney asked what all would be involved with the proposed Arbor Day event. Mrs. Sterchi replied that per NWF requirements, tree recipients would need to provide their name and e-mail address, and would need to be provided with the NWF’s listing of guidelines for planting and care of the new trees. With that being said, stations would need to be set up for receipt of contact information, and distribution of the trees/guidelines. Mrs. Sterchi also recommended providing J.U.L.I.E. information so recipients will know to call before they dig.

Mrs. Sterchi then suggested that an area could be set up in order to receive donations for future tree projects. Donors would be provided with a receipt for their donation. Mrs. Sterchi would speak with the City Manager to see if that could be a possibility.

Depending on how many people come to the Arbor Day event, Mrs. Sterchi offered that the white squirrel costume could be used for photo opportunities.

In case of rain, Mrs. Sterchi felt that the Arbor Day event should take place at the Community Building. There would also be restroom access, parking, and plenty of room to store the trees.

Mr. Simpson asked if people could call in advance to reserve trees to be picked up. After some discussion, the Board felt that people could call ahead to reserve up to 10 trees, but should be picked up the day of the event.

Mrs. McKinney suggested that the event take place from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. that day. Quite a few members of the Tree Board indicated that they could be available earlier in the day to help set up. With that in mind, Mrs. McKinney suggested that if people needed to come earlier to pick up trees, as long as a Tree Board member was on-site, that should not be a problem.

Mrs. Sterchi then added that the Community Building could also be available for additional give-a-ways until 10:00 a.m. the day after Arbor Day in case any trees were left over.

Mrs. Sterchi would print flyers for distribution. The Board discussed divvying up organizations and businesses to spread the word about the event.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to have the tree give-a-way on Arbor Day (April 28, 2017) from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., with April 29, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. as a secondary date, if needed, seconded by Mr. Simpson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mr. Page suggested that if trees were left over and the April 29th date was needed, that those wanting more than the allowed 10 trees could be contacted to pick up any additional trees they were wanting. The Board agreed.

5-D “Creation of City of Olney Arboricultural Specifications and Standards” At the last Tree Board meeting, it was discussed that the Tree Board should create arboricultural specifications and standards for the community. At that meeting, an example from Clinton, Illinois, was provided for the Board to review and make suggestions for future meetings.

Since the last meeting, Mr. Caulfield had contacted the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri, to see if they had any ideas on trees that could coexist near underground utility lines. His St. Louis contact replied with their list of street trees and an explanation of why trees, even with horizontal roots, have difficulty near water lines. The contact indicated that the main reason for water and waste line conflicts was due to potential infrastructure failures of the lines. Once even the smallest leak occurs, the surrounding soil will become saturated, and if any roots detect the saturation, they will make a beeline towards the source and enter. The Missouri Botanical Garden contact also stated, “I doubt there is any tree on earth that will pass up such an opportunity once it presents itself.” Perhaps the information provided could be added to the Board’s arboricultural specifications and standards to help educate the community.

It was determined that no member of the Board had any suggestions for Olney arboricultural specifications or standards at this time.

AGENDA #6 “GENERAL DISCUSSION/ACTION” At the last meeting, Barb Grabner-Kerns, Field Coordinator for the Trees Forever program, was present to speak to the Tree Board. Since that time, Mrs. Grabner-Kerns had e-mailed Mrs. Sterchi a flyer for an upcoming workshop that would take place in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, on April 13, 2017, and wished to invite anyone that could attend. Mrs. Sterchi distributed the flyer to the members of the Tree Board.

Mr. Page asked Mr. Simpson if the FFA planned on planting the tree for Marilyn Holt in the coming Spring. Mr. Simpson replied that the FFA was juggling many commitments, but ERFAE had purchased the plaque for the tree. It was Mr. Simpson’s hope that the tree would be planted in the Spring.

Mr. Page then asked for an update on the addition of plaques at the Tree Identification Park. Mrs. Sterchi also wondered, noting she had just visited the park earlier in the day and no plaques had yet been placed. Mr. Page would contact Jamie VanDyke and Donnie Watson for an update. If necessary, the Tree Board would place the plaques.

AGENDA #7 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting of the Tree Board would be held on April 26, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #8 “ADJOURN” Mrs. McKinney moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Sterchi. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk