

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
MARCH 18, 2019
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 S. Whittle Ave., Olney, Illinois, with City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi presiding.

AGENDA #2 “ROLL CALL” The following Tree Board members were present: Dustin Marshall, Bill Caulfield, Chris Simpson, and Bill Page. Paige Abell was absent.

AGENDA #3 “ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON” Brandy McKinney had been serving as the Chair of the Tree Board, however Mrs. McKinney had recently resigned from the Board. As a result, a new Chair would need to be elected. The Board was reminded that Mrs. Sterchi, as City Clerk, served as the Secretary.

Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that Mrs. McKinney was able to devote more service to the Tree Board due to her availability, however as Chair, the only responsibilities would be to call meetings of the Tree Board, and to lead meetings.

No members of the Board expressed interest in the Chair position.

Mr. Caulfield moved to elect Mr. Page as Tree Board Chair. The motion died due to lack of a second.

Mr. Page moved that the election of a Chair be tabled until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Simpson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #4 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON DECEMBER 10, 2018” Mr. Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on December 10, 2018, seconded by Mr. Page. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #5 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public was present.

AGENDA #6 “MANAGEMENT OF A MEMORIAL TREE PROJECT” Upon Mrs. McKinney’s resignation, she provided Mrs. Sterchi with a listing of pending projects/communications. One of the pending topics was Rotary’s request that the Tree Board create and manage a Memorial Tree program with promotion and service assistance from Rotary.

At the last meeting of the Tree Board, the Board had expressed concern as to whether or not they were the appropriate type of group to fully manage such a project.

At this meeting, the Board expressed the same concerns. While it was felt that the project was a great idea, the Board did not feel that they met often enough to manage such an ongoing project. The main purpose of the Board was to act as an advisory board to the City, though small, ancillary projects did take place from time to time.

Mr. Caulfield moved to not accept management of a Memorial Tree program, but to offer support should the program be managed by another organization, seconded by Mr. Simpson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #7 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: UPGRADED AND/OR REPLACEMENT SIGNAGE AT THE TREE IDENTIFICATION PARK” Earlier in the fiscal year, the Tree Board had received a \$2,500.00 Right Tree, Right Place Grant from Ameren. At the last Board meeting, the Board voted to replace the damaged signs at the Tree Identification Park. Mrs. Sterchi reported that the replacement signs had been received, and the invoice of \$88.00 was processing through Accounts Payable. That left the Board \$2,412.00 to spend out of the grant funds.

The Board had also voted to add extensions to the steel holders to help prevent future mowing damage to the signs. A quote had been received from Chris Foust. Mr. Foust quoted \$8.75 per holder or \$10.50 per holder, including sign attachment. There were approximately 65 trees in the Tree Identification Park.

Mrs. Sterchi asked Mr. Marshall if the purchase of the steel holders would be acceptable since the purchase did not fall under the specific listing of allowable uses for the funds. Mr. Marshall replied that would be an allowable expense because it helped to maintain the Tree Identification Park.

Mr. Page wondered if tree rings could be added instead as protection from mowing. He was also concerned with how the larger holders would look.

Mr. Simpson and Mr. Marshall had seen tall sign holders and did not believe they would be a visual problem. Mr. Marshall added that an additional benefit of a taller holder was that it would also be out of the range of flying debris from the mowers. Additionally, it may create more work for maintaining inside of the ring.

Mr. Page commented that at the moment, the Tree Identification Park did not look to be in good shape. He had noticed that weeds were growing up through the berms and mulch that had been placed. Mrs. Sterchi indicated that the Park Department was just transitioning into the mode of Spring and Summer landscape maintenance. She would make a special note about the Tree Identification Park.

Mr. Page wondered if the signs could be replaced on an as-need basis. Mrs. Sterchi replied that could be an option, but only if funds were available. At the present time, funds were available.

Mr. Page reminded the Board that there were some trees in the Tree Identification Park that had died and would need replaced. Some were also not in the best condition.

Mrs. Sterchi pointed out that the Board could also again reply for a 2019 Right Tree, Right Place Grant to hopefully receive additional funds.

Mr. Page told the Board that he had removed most of the tree stakes from the Tree Identification Park. The City had used a few stakes to attach to cages, and Mr. Page had also staked areas where trees had been, so the location could be easily recognized for replanting.

Mr. Simpson moved to purchase 65 of the taller steel holders with attached signs at \$10.50 each, seconded by Mr. Marshall. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #8 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: ARBOR DAY 2019 PLANS” Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that Arbor Day would be recognized on April 26, 2019. As in years past, a proclamation signing would be scheduled with the Mayor. She would let the Board know of the date and time.

Last year, a tree give-a-way event was held in honor of Arbor Day. The event was very successful.

It was possible that funding or additional assistance could be received from Ameren for an Arbor Day event. Mr. Marshall told the Board that he would need to know what the plans would be so he could ask for the appropriate contributions.

Mr. Simpson was curious on how much it would cost to hold another tree give-a-way. Mrs. Sterchi replied that Arbor Day was offering packs of 50 seedlings for \$69.00 plus shipping. Arbor Day also offered Gift Trees, which would be seedlings packaged in a tube, with a label, and care instructions. The Gift Trees would cost \$4.00 per tree.

Mr. Simpson and Mr. Page expressed concern with a tree give-a-way of young trees. Deer were proving to be a problem, and it was noticed that some of the trees given away from the Arbor Day event and the Trees Forever event had died, apparently from lack of care. Mr. Marshall was concerned with tree placement on private property.

Mr. Page suggested that a write up could be created as a way to encourage the public to purchase and plant trees. Perhaps members of the Tree Board could offer to help with tree planting. Past that, he suggested that trees could be purchased and planted in public parks.

Mr. Caulfield suggested that if any trees were given away in the future, that they should be larger trees that would be easier to care for.

Mr. Marshall suggested that an educational, community event could be held in one of the parks that could be centered around the topic of trees and tree maintenance. The Board liked Mr. Marshall’s idea.

After some more discussion on details, the Board decided that a community event could be held at the Tree Identification Park at 4:00 p.m. on Arbor Day, April 26th. One or more trees would be planted as a demonstration. A Question & Answer portion would also be held, and a possible pruning demonstration.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to hold an Arbor Day event as detailed in the paragraph above, seconded by Mr. Simpson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

In addition to the firm details of the event, Mrs. Sterchi offered that she would try to find some give-a-ways that could be available, and reach out to see if a couple of vendors would be interested in providing concessions.

Local nurseries would also be contacted to see if they would like to provide a tree for planting, and to see if they would also like to be present with a display. They could also offer coupons to attendees, but no sales would be allowed.

Mr. Marshall would be in touch with Green Acres, Mr. Page would be in touch with Runyon's, Mr. Simpson would be in touch with Keller's, and Mr. Caulfield would be in touch with Krajec. It was requested that details of interest from the local nurseries be received no later than March 29th.

Mr. Marshall also offered to get in touch with Street Department Supervisor Tyler Kocher to see if he could be present.

Mr. Simpson also wondered if the Mayor could be available to do a tree-related book reading at RCES. He could help coordinate that with his wife who was the school librarian.

AGENDA #9 "DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE TREE BOARD" At the time, the only person that came to mind that might be willing and interested was Todd Bettis. The Board was in consensus to contact Mr. Bettis to evaluate his interest. If he was interested, the Board would recommend that Mayor Lambird formally appoint him.

AGENDA #10 "GENERAL DISCUSSION" Mr. Page showed the Board two options for Emerald Ash Borer preventative treatments that could be used for Ash trees in the City Park. The recommendations came from Mr. Page's contact at Perk-a-Lawn in Vincennes, Indiana.

The first option was a direct injection method that would use Emamectin Benzoate. The trees would need to be injected every four inches following the circumference of the tree. The injections would need to be administered 18 inches above ground level. The cost would be \$12.00 per injection and would need to be done at two year intervals for the life of the tree.

The second option presented was a drench bath. The treatment would be done using Imidacloprid at a rate of one ounce per inch of circumference. The insecticide would be poured approximately one foot from the trunk of the tree. This option was very cost efficient. The initial treatment should be done in May, and the second in September. Follow up treatments should then be performed yearly.

Mr. Marshall felt that the first option would have the highest success rate because the treatment would be injected directly into the veins.

Mrs. Sterchi would submit the treatment options to the Park Department for consideration.

AGENDA #11 "SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING DATE" The next meeting of the Tree Board was scheduled for April 15, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA #12 "ADJOURN" Mr. Simpson moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Page. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk

