

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
MARCH 23, 2016
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 300 S. Whittle Ave., Olney, Illinois, with Brandy McKinney presiding.

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

Chairperson McKinney extended a warm welcome to Bill Page and Andrea McDowell, newly appointed Tree Board members.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 24, 2016” Mrs. McKinney moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from February 24, 2016, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the minutes.

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

AGENDA #5 “TREE PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS”

5-A “Update: J&J Trailer Court Recommendations” Mrs. McKinney updated the Board that she had e-mailed a listing of wholesalers for trees to John Joyce and Ted Marshall.

Mr. Page and Mrs. McDowell were updated on the presentation made at the last meeting by Mr. Marshall. Mr. Page requested a copy of the map of the trailer court. Mrs. Sterchi would provide this through e-mail to Mr. Page and Mrs. McDowell.

The Board would continue to prepare a list of suggestions for J&J Trailer Court.

5-B “Update: Donor(s) for Marilyn Holt Tree Planting at RCHS & Quotes Received” At the last meeting of the Tree Board, certain members were to explore quotes from various businesses with Mr. Simpson researching donors for the tree proposed to be place on RCHS property.

Mrs. Sterchi had spoken with Keller’s Landscaping, and Mylissa Keller suggested a Weeping Cherry Tree. Prices would range between \$90.00 and \$120.00, depending on size. Two bags of mulch would total \$9.00, three stakes would total \$9.00, a tree guard would come with the tree, and she was unsure on cost of water bags.

Mrs. Abell had spoken with Green Acres Landscaping, and they felt that about \$25.00 would be needed for planting supplies with pricing on the tree being dependent upon which kind of ornamental.

Mrs. McKinney moved to recommend the Weeping Cherry Tree for the Marilyn Holt tree planting, seconded by Mrs. McDowell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Without the presence of Mr. Simpson, the vendor recommendation would be tabled until a donor was determined.

5-C “Specific Locations on E. Main Street for the Five Spring Plantings & Scheduling” At the March 14, 2016, City Council meeting, the Council approved the Tree Board’s recommendation of planting five trees along E. Main Street right-of-way areas.

Mrs. McKinney recommended planting areas of the Carnegie Library/Museum and the Olney Public Library. It was noted that the trees should only be planted on E. Main Street, so the Olney Public Library area was removed from recommendation.

Mrs. Sterchi also suggested the area near the TrustBank lot to the west of the TrustBank building. The City had right-of-way that extended north of the sidewalk on that block. Placement in this location could soften the area.

Mrs. McKinney moved to select the area near the Carnegie Library/Museum and TrustBank lot for the five 2016 Spring plantings, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Tree species would be determined at a later date with choices of Dogwood, Goldenrain, Flowering Crab, Crape Myrtle, and/or Redbud. Tree Board members would receive quotes on the five trees, cost of planting, etc. to present at the April meeting.

It was also noted that future plantings would be much less expensive. As Main Street was a focal area, and there was some small concern from the Council, the Board needed to be sure that all precautions were taken for success. Plantings in other areas, such as the recent plantings at Musgrove Park, could be planted by volunteers with little to no concern.

5-D “Street Tree Replacement Program” Now that the two vacancies had been filled, all Board members would review the plan and come back with final draft changes at the April meeting.

Mr. Page asked what kind of budget was available for this sort of program. Mrs. Sterchi replied that the initial proposed draft suggested a \$1,000.00 budget. At a \$75 contribution from the City for each approved tree, that would allow for about 13 trees to be planted.

5-E “Other 2016 Planting & Funding Suggestions” The possibility of a Tree Identification Park was discussed. More research and discussion would take place in the future.

AGENDA #6 “175TH ANNIVERSARY”

6-A “Recommendation for City Flower” At the last meeting of the Tree Board, it was difficult to make a decision for recommendation of a City Flower for the 175th anniversary. It was then suggested to conduct an online poll to evaluate the public’s opinions. Results were as follows: Butterflyweed, 299 votes; Blazing Star, 306 votes; Purple Coneflower, 386 votes; and Garden Phlox, 411 votes.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to recommend the Garden Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) as the official City of Olney Flower, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The recommendation would go to the City Council for official approval at the March 28, 2016, City Council meeting.

6-B “Update: Hickory Named the Official City Tree” As an update to the Board, the Council did approve the request to name the Hickory as the Official City Tree. This was passed by Ordinance 2016-11.

AGENDA #7 “GENERAL DISCUSSION”

7-A “Request for Removal: Tree on City Right-of-Way Near 101 S. Elliott Street” Mrs. McKinney noted that a tree had been topped in front of 101 S. Elliott Street. The tree served no purpose any longer, and was an eye-sore.

Mrs. McKinney moved to suggest to the Street Department the removal of the tree on the north side of the 101 S. Elliott Street property, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

7-B “City Trees Requested for Maintenance” A beautiful, old tree stood near 129 N. Camp Street. Mrs. McKinney felt in effort to keep the integrity of the tree, it was in need of selective pruning to allow it to continue to grow.

Mrs. McKinney moved to suggest that the Street Department have one or two members of the Tree Board accompany them to the pruning of the tree on a Friday, if possible, seconded by Mrs. McDowell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

7-C “Applying to Become a Tree City U.S.A.” In the past, the Board had explored the potential of applying to become a designated Tree City U.S.A. It seemed the City had a majority of the requirements, but there was some concern on the budget per capita requirement. After more research, it seemed as if the City did comply.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to apply to become a Tree City U.S.A., seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Mrs. Sterchi would begin the application.

AGENDA #8 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting of the Tree Board would be held on April 14, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

Before adjourning, Mr. Page recommended that the Board take time to read The Man Who Planted Trees by Jim Robbins. He told that he read the book each year as a source of inspiration.

AGENDA #9 “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 8:15 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk

