

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
APRIL 14, 2016
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 7:00 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: Paige Abell, Bill Caulfield, Brandy McKinney, Kelsie Sterchi, Chris Simpson, Bill Page, and Andrea McDowell.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 23, 2016” Mr. Page moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from March 23, 2016, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the minutes.

AGENDA #4 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” From the public, Donny Watson approached the Board. Mr. Watson told the Board that as part of his Eagle Project for Eagle Scouts, he had the idea of planting various trees through the City or in the parks. He had spoken to Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley, and Mr. Bradley suggested approaching the Tree Board.

Mrs. McKinney added that she had also briefly spoken with Mr. Watson about a tree identification park. Such a park could be a good solution for his proposed Eagle Project. Mr. VanDyke, from RCHS, also supported the proposed park as the FFA would have use for such an area.

Mrs. Sterchi told Mr. Watson that a tree identification park had very recently been suggested with no guarantees that the Council would approve the project. She asked when Mr. Watson would need to know if the tree park could be used for his Eagle Project. Mr. Watson replied that he would need to know for sure by the Fall of 2016.

If the proposed tree park was not accepted by the Council or not able to be in the works by the Fall, Mrs. Sterchi asked what Mr. Watson’s next plan would be. Mr. Watson indicated that he could be used for other project, but his main requirement would be to have the public be involved. He would need to be able to keep track of hours and finances for whatever project was to come, and to also facilitate fundraising.

It was determined that regardless of the outcome of the tree identification park, Mr. Watson was more than willing to be utilized for other projects with the Tree Board, but would have the tree identification park as a preference.

Depending on various factors, including input from the Parks & Recreation Board, the Tree Board felt that area near the Musgrove House at Musgrove Park could be used as a location for the tree identification park.

From the audience, Peggy Watson asked about how many trees would be planted in the proposed park. Mrs. McKinney replied that 200 trees of individual species could easily be planted for that purpose, however 25-50 favorite trees could serve as a starting point.

Mrs. Watson emphasized that once an Eagle Scout goes before their board to present their Eagle Project, every penny of the project needs to be accounted for. She wondered if that could be easily tracked. Mrs. Sterchi told Mrs. Watson that when it comes to City-related projects, tracking was not a problem due to the City's normal accounting processes.

AGENDA #5 "TREE PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS"

5-A "Update: J&J Trailer Court Recommendations" A few members of the Tree Board had gone through the trailer court at different points since the last meeting. It was determined that the green spaces through the court were not currently in the best condition for the Board to provide a solid recommendation. Mrs. McKinney would be in touch with Ted Marshall to make him aware.

Mrs. McKinney had also provided a listing of wholesalers to Mr. Marshall to reference when ready to purchase greenery.

5-B "Marilyn Holt Tree Planting: Tree Donor, Plaque Design, & RCHS Earth Day Plans" Mr. Simpson had been in touch with the RCEA, and they had indicated their desire to be the donor for the Marilyn Holt Tree Planting. They would be willing to donate up to \$250.00 for the cause.

The tree will be planted on the south east corner of the RCHS campus this Spring. A Weeping Cherry Tree would be planted with a plaque placed. The landscape design classes were also interested in expanding the aesthetic of the area. That project would most likely be completed in the Fall.

Once the tree is planted, a small dedication ceremony would be held, and the Tree Board would be invited.

5-C "E. Main Street Five Spring Planting Recommendations & Scheduling" Prices, availability, guarantee, and other factors were discussed to determine which landscaper to utilize for the E. Main Street plantings.

Mr. Page noted that it would be more visually pleasing to have the same species planted next to one another. Different trees could be planted in other areas to help alleviate the threat of disease. He also added that the Spring Snow variety of Flowering Crab was non-fruit producing, so attracting birds would not be a problem.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to utilize Krajec Landscaping for the plantings along E. Main Street, with the three Spring Snow Flowering Crabs planted at the TrustBank lot and two Pink Stellar Dogwoods planted at the Carnegie Museum, seconded by Mrs. McKinney. Mrs. McKinney, Mr. Caulfield, Mr. Simpson, Mrs. Sterchi, Mrs. Abell, Mr. Page, and Mrs. McDowell voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

Included in Krajec Landscaping's services would be mulch, stakes, installation of water bags and tree guards, and a guarantee for one year. Mr. Page would visit Krajec Landscaping to place the order and schedule the plantings. Mrs. Sterchi would call in a J.U.L.I.E. order for the areas.

5-D "Street Tree Replacement Program" Since the last meeting of the Tree Board, each member had reviewed the proposed program to make final recommendations to the draft.

Over discussion, it was determined that the Tree Board should be added in each area that "Street Department" is listed. All varieties of Ash Trees should also be removed, and the Crape Myrtle, Black

Gum, and Linden varieties should be added to the listing of tree options. "Resident" should be omitted and replaced with either "residence" or "property owner." The specifications on caliper should also be removed.

Mrs. McKinney moved to make the changes as listed above, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The revised draft would go before the City Council for approval on April 18, 2016.

5-E "Arbor Day Plans" Arbor Day was quickly approaching, and the Tree Board needed to make a plan to coincide with the holiday. Mrs. Sterchi wished to see one or more Hickory Trees planted.

Mr. Simpson suggested that Bower Park could be utilized for Arbor Day plantings, especially since the large tree had come down last year. Mrs. Sterchi indicated that Bower Park was undergoing some upgrades as directed by City Manager Barker. She recommended that the park be left alone for the time being, until all upgrades were made.

Mrs. McKinney thought the City Park could be a focus. Trees had been coming down due to age and storms. There were plenty of mature trees in the park, but not many that were maturing.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to plant at least one tree, preferably the Hickory, and have this tree be the one planted in honor of Dr. Walter, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Mrs. McKinney would speak with Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley on a good location at the City Park for the proposed tree. Mr. Page would speak with Krajec Landscaping on their options.

AGENDA #6 "GENERAL DISCUSSION"

6-A "Tree City U.S.A. Application" Mrs. Sterchi was still working on the Tree City U.S.A. application and would hopefully have more to report at the next meeting.

AGENDA #7 "SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE" The next meeting of the Tree Board would be held on June 22, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #8 "ADJOURN" Mrs. McKinney moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk