

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD  
OLNEY CITY HALL  
APRIL 15, 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: Todd Bettis, Dustin Marshall, Bill Caulfield, and Kelsie Sterchi. Paige Abell and Bill Page were absent. Chris Simpson entered the meeting during Agenda #6.

AGENDA #3 “ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON” At the last Tree Board meeting, this topic was tabled. Because only four Tree Board members were present at the time of this discussion, one of which was a new member, the Board felt it would be the most fair to wait until more attendance was present.

Mr. Marshall moved to table the election of a Chair until full attendance was present, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #4 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2019” Mr. Marshall moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on March 18, 2019, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

AGENDA #6 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: DESIGNATE AREA IN CITY PARK FOR RESIDENTS TO PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES PASSED” At the last Tree Board meeting, the Board decided they should not be the managers for a formal Memorial Tree Program. Since then, Mr. Caulfield had been approached by a member of the public with a possible alternative.

Mr. Caulfield explained that the idea was that an area in the City Park could be designated for planting of memorial trees. The trees would be purchased, planted and cared for by the individual with no City involvement. Permissible trees would be small flowering trees or conifers.

Mrs. Sterchi had sent an e-mail to Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley about the suggestion, but had not yet heard back from him. The department was very busy with spring maintenance, preparation for Opening Day, and installation of a lightning detector. If any action was to be taken this evening, Mrs. Sterchi explained that it would be only an action of support for the suggestion.

Mr. Simpson entered the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Marshall asked if the individuals would be limited to designated, appropriate trees. Mrs. Sterchi confirmed.

Mr. Bettis briefed Mr. Simpson on the discussion that had taken place prior to his arrival.

Mr. Marshall asked what would happen if the tree died in the future or if there were City needs that would require the designated tree or area to be removed. Mrs. Sterchi replied that if Mr. Bradley supported the proposal, plans would move forward to include a signed waiver and/or application, similar to what is found in the Street Tree Replacement Application, that addresses such issues.

Mr. Marshall had recently met with Mr. Bradley and Street Department Supervisor Tyler Kocher. They met to discuss trees that would need to be removed for Ameren purposes. Also discussed were other trees that needed to be removed for non-utility purposes as they were dead, diseased or dangerous. Because of this, some extra space would soon be available in the City Park for such memorial trees.

The Tree Board was in consensus to wait to take action on this topic until information was received from Mr. Bradley.

AGENDA #7 "DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: ARBOR DAY 2019 PLANS" Mrs. Sterchi informed the Board that the City Treasurer had pointed out that some funds still remained in the bank account that was created for the establishment of the Tree Identification Park. The City Treasurer preferred that the payments for replacement signs and the extended steel holders be paid from this account. Because of this, the Board still had a full balance of funds available. The funds would need to be spent by the end of the month, which was also the close of the City's 2018/2019 fiscal year.

At the last meeting, the local nurseries were going to be contacted to see if they would like to be present at the Arbor Day celebration. Mr. Marshall had indicated that Bryan Smithenry of Green Acres Nursery and Landscaping would be present at the celebration. Mr. Smithenry would just need additional details.

Mr. Simpson was having difficulty contacting Keller's, but would continue to reach out. Mr. Caulfield had been in touch with Krajec, but he was too busy to attend. Mr. Page was going to be in contact with Runyon's, but Mr. Page was not in attendance at this meeting. Mrs. Sterchi would touch base with Mr. Page.

Mrs. Sterchi informed the Board that another Ameren grant had been received as a contribution for an Arbor Day celebration. The grant was in the amount of \$500.00 and could be used for any purpose. An amount of \$2,500.00 still remained from the Ameren Right Tree Right Place Grant to be used on trees and tree care accessories. The City had also received a \$42.00 refund from Krajec for return of stakes.

Mr. Page had recently visited the Tree Identification Park and submitted a listing of trees that would definitely need to be replaced. There were other trees may need to be replaced, but Mr. Page had difficulty determining their health. Mrs. Sterchi recommended that the trees submitted by Mr. Page that needed replacement be purchased. From there, Mrs. Sterchi wondered if the Board had any other specific items they would like to purchase before the end of the month.

Mr. Marshall suggested that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) treatments could be purchased. At the last Tree Board meeting, suggestions on two different treatments were submitted to Mr. Bradley. Mr. Marshall indicated that Mr. Bradley was in contact with a local vendor to see if they could order the chemicals for treatment. The Board was in consensus to contribute funds for the purchase of EAB treatments.

Mr. Caulfield offered that treatments for other kind of trees could be considered. Mrs. Sterchi felt that could be something to be considered for the future, but EAB treatments, tree replacements, and additional items for the plantings should be utilized immediately.

Also at the last meeting, the Board had discussed other activities that could take place at the Arbor Day celebration. Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that Rotary was hosting a Community Clean Up Day on May 4<sup>th</sup>. She had asked if they would be interested in attending to solicit volunteers for the clean up routes. Jean Weber was interested, but stated she would be back in touch with Mrs. Sterchi on who from Rotary could be in attendance.

In regard to concessions, the person managing the concession stand at the ball diamonds was interested in being open for the event. The manager was not interested in having food transferred and available by the Tree Identification Park, but would have yard signs available indicating that the concession stand would be open.

Mrs. Sterchi continued that she was also checking around to see if anyone would be available to wear the white squirrel costume so attendees could have their pictures taken with the mascot.

Mrs. Sterchi offered that perhaps an inflatable or two, face painting, or possibly music could be incorporated into the event. The Board had no problem with such options. Mr. Marshall also suggested that Prairie Farms be contacted to see if they would be interested if offering ice cream. If so, flyers could be given to students that would include a coupon for free ice cream as an incentive.

Mrs. Sterchi asked the Board if they would be in favor of her scheduling activities to use the \$500.00 grant. The Board confirmed.

Mr. Simpson then asked if the Mayor was still interested in visiting RCES for a tree-related book reading. Mrs. Sterchi indicated so and that he or Mrs. Simpson, the RCES Librarian, could contact him to hash out the details.

Mrs. Sterchi asked if Mr. Smithenry was still going to donate a tree. Mr. Marshall replied that he had not yet made a formal commitment. The Board felt that Mr. Smithenry would not need to donate a tree, especially since additional funds had been received.

Mr. Marshall offered that since Mr. Smithenry would be present during the celebration, perhaps some or all of the trees could be purchased through him in recognition of taking the time to attend. Additionally, if Mr. Smithenry was involved in the planting of the trees, his guarantee would apply. The Board agreed, and felt that all replacement trees could all be planted during the event time of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Once confirmations were made, Mrs. Sterchi would provide the Board with a detailed listing of what will be available, times, etc. Mr. Simpson asked if a flyer would also be created. He would like to distribute flyers to students. Mrs. Sterchi confirmed.

Mr. Marshall asked where inflatables and such would be placed. Mrs. Sterchi would be visiting the area of the Musgrove House and Tree ID Park during the week to better determine placement. The Musgrove House did not have electricity on the outside, but Mr. Bradley indicated there was an electric pole nearby with two outlets. The vendor for inflatables did state they could bring a generator, if necessary, for an extra fee.

AGENDA #8 “GENERAL DISCUSSION” No additional discussion was needed.

AGENDA #9 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting of the Tree Board was scheduled for May 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA #10 “ADJOURN” Mr. Simpson moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Bettis. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk