

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
MAY 9, 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, Bill Caulfield, Kelsie Sterchi, and Bill Page. Chris Simpson was absent, and Dustin Marshall entered during Agenda #6.

AGENDA #3 “ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON” This item was tabled.

AGENDA #4 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON APRIL 15, 2019” Mr. Page moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on April 15, 2019, seconded by Mr. Bettis. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

AGENDA #6 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: DONATION OF TREES AND/OR FUNDS FROM THE MODERN WOODSMEN” Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that Jim Sterchi of the Modern Woodsmen of America had come into City Hall offering another donation, as in past years, of \$200.00 to \$300.00 worth of trees to be planted. Mrs. Sterchi assumed that accepting the donation would not be a problem, but asked the Board if they had any preferences on types of trees or locations to be planted.

Mr. Marshall entered the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Page wondered if trees could be planted in the City Park to replace recently removed trees. Mr. Marshall recalled that some Oak, Sycamore, Ash, Hackberry, and a few other trees were posed for removal for a variety of reasons. Mr. Marshall stated his opinion that it would be nice to have some Oaks replaced.

Some areas in the City Park were used for overflow parking during events. Mr. Marshall suggested that tree placement could be utilized as row dividers. Mr. Bradley should be contacted to see if this could be an option for the donated trees from the Modern Woodsmen and also trees from future Ameren grants.

Mr. Bettis moved to accept the donation from the Modern Woodsmen of America, and moved to recommend tree planting in the City Park based upon Mr. Bradley’s suggestions on location and type of tree, seconded by Mr. Marshall. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #7 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: VACANCY SUGGESTIONS” Paige Abell had recently resigned from the Tree Board. Mrs. Sterchi asked if the Board had any suggestions to fill that vacancy. Mr. Simpson had submitted via e-mail a suggestion of Jack Gorden.

The Board wished to table the topic until the next meeting.

AGENDA #8 “DISCUSSION: ARBOR DAY 2019 REVIEW” The Board was thankful to receive a \$500.00 grant from Ameren Illinois for the purpose of an Arbor Day event. Most likely, the Board would be able to continue receiving this grant. With this in mind, the Board noted that Arbor Day plans should start sooner and factor in the likely \$500.00 grant.

Mrs. Sterchi expressed displeasure with a local vendor that was a no call/no show at the event and did not provide for a smooth process on tree ordering. It caused a scramble to try and get any trees in time for Arbor Day.

Mrs. Sterchi commended Mr. Marshall’s suggestion to have ice cream at the event. She felt it was a draw for attendees. The Board agreed.

Mr. Marshall had spoken with colleagues that also participated in Arbor Day events. Some of these events did not take place on Arbor Day, but were instead celebrated on a Saturday and sometimes combined with other local events.

Overall, the Board was fairly pleased with attendance. Mr. Marshall indicated that he had conversations with about four of the attendees that were very interested in receiving tree-related information and advice.

Mr. Bettis recalled that several years ago, bare root seedlings were handing out to select elementary school students. Members of the public still remember this effort and some still have the trees in their yards to this day. Because of this, Mr. Bettis had asked his wife’s opinion as she was currently an elementary school teacher. She felt it would be a good idea, but perhaps for older students. Mr. Bettis felt that would bring Arbor Day to them instead of trying to draw students in to an event.

Mr. Bettis also offered that a planting event could take place at a school where students could be involved.

Mr. Marshall recalled prior conversation where concern was raised over how many trees were not cared for or died following a tree give-away. This would most likely always be the case, but he was not opposed to giving trees to people who took time to attend or participate in an Arbor Day event. From there, conversations could take place on plans for the tree.

AGENDA #9 “GENERAL DISCUSSION” Mr. Caulfield asked Mr. Marshall what level humidity would need to be at for electricity from lines to jump into tree sap. Mr. Marshall felt that was difficult to answer due to factors such as voltage load, type of tree, and time of year. For safety purposes, generally speaking, Ameren did not want any trees within 10 feet of power lines.

Mr. Page wondered if any further action had been taken by the City on treatment of Ash trees. Mrs. Sterchi confirmed that some of the \$2,500.00 Ameren grant had been used to purchase preventative treatment against Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Marshall asked if a press release could be created. He felt that such an advertisement would note efforts of the Tree Board and the Park

Department. It would also make the public aware of steps they can also take towards preventative treatments. Lastly, such advertisement would enhance the likelihood for the City to continue and receive grants from Ameren. Mrs. Sterchi stated she could create such a press release

AGENDA #10 "SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE" Due to very busy Summer schedules, a meeting date would be scheduled in the future.

AGENDA #11 "ADJOURN" Mrs. Sterchi moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Bettis. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk