

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD  
OLNEY CITY HALL  
JUNE 22, 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: Brandy McKinney, Andrea McDowell, Bill Caulfield, Kelsie Sterchi, Paige Abell, and Bill Page. Chris Simpson was absent.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON APRIL 14, 2016” Mrs. McKinney moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from April 14, 2016, seconded by Mr. Page. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the minutes.

AGENDA #4 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” From the public, Donnie Watson approached the Board. At the last meeting, Mr. Watson expressed interest and received support from the Tree Board on the implementation of a Tree Identification Park at Musgrove Park.

Since then, Mr. Watson had done some additional research on the project and was extremely interested in moving forward with hopes to start planting in September of 2016. He had also continued corresponding with Mr. VanDyke at the high school. Mr. VanDyke would be able to greatly utilize such a park for courses he teaches and for use with school clubs.

Before moving forward, Mr. Watson would need a definitive “yes” from the City Council designating the area near the Musgrove House for the Tree Identification Park. From there, he would make a presentation to the Eagle Board and hopefully gain their approval, as well.

Due to time constraints, Mr. Watson was hoping that the Council could approve the project as soon as possible. The next City Council meeting would be the coming Monday, June 27. With this in mind, there was no time to make a formal presentation to the Parks & Recreation Board for their support. Mrs. McKinney would be in touch with Parks & Recreation Board Chair Morgan Henton to assess their support. According to the Parks & Recreation Board’s Comprehensive Plan, the proposed area for the Tree Identification Park would be a fit. Mrs. Sterchi would also confirm with the Park Supervisor his support of the proposed location. It was also mentioned that the proposed area would need a J.U.L.I.E. order called in to assess appropriate locations for planting.

A member of the Tree Board would be in touch with Mr. Watson by the end of the day on Friday to let him know whether or not the topic would be able to be presented at the upcoming Council meeting.

The topic of funding the project was a continued discussion. It was noted that grant opportunities may be available. Different organizations and businesses may also be interested. Additionally, depending on the price points of various trees, families may also sponsor certain trees in honor of loved ones. Mr. Watson also noted that Mr. VanDyke was interested in making planting part of the curriculum in his Forestry course, so volunteers to help plant should not be a problem.

Mr. Watson's mother, Peggy Watson, was curious if the implementation of the Tree Identification Park could be fueled by noting the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Mrs. Sterchi felt that would be a great idea, and that the 175<sup>th</sup> logo could be utilized.

Mr. Watson asked if the City would help fund the project. Mrs. Sterchi replied that projects that are not included in the current budget would be subject to approval or denial by the Council. Mrs. Watson asked if mulch could be supplied by the City. Mrs. Sterchi recommended that when the time came, a formal letter could be presented making such requests.

#### AGENDA #5 "TREE PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS"

5-A "Discussion: Street Tree Replacement Program & Increasing Awareness" Earlier in the year, the City Council approved the Tree Board's recommended Street Tree Replacement Program. Mrs. McKinney asked if there was a specific budget for the program. Mrs. Sterchi replied that there is a Public Relations line item that is used for a variety of purposes. It was recommended by the City Treasurer to utilize funds from this line item, if available, for the first year. Past that, a specific line item can be created if there is a better idea of how many funds will most likely be used.

Mrs. McKinney wished to push advertising for the program in hopes to have some applications to review at the next meeting in order for trees to be planted in the Fall planting season.

Mrs. Sterchi could create a press release and post the information on social media. If applications are received, Mrs. Sterchi would scan them and e-mail to the Board for review prior to the next meeting.

5-B "Potential Hickory Tree Program" Mrs. McKinney wished to see more Hickory trees be available in the area. She explained that such a tree's roots are long and need special care.

Mr. Page had found an organization that had discovered a simple way to grow Hickories. The organization has produced special containers for this purpose. For a small licensing fee, they could provide containers and growing instructions to help grow the best Hickories possible. Mr. Page would forward the information on to the rest of the Tree Board.

Mr. Page had also found an online retailer that had saplings available for \$2.65 each with nominal shipping charges. The retailer had a 100% positive feedback rating. The seller had indicated to him that he would be willing to work down shipping costs based on larger orders.

The concern with planting such saplings would be their fragility out in the open. They would need to be protected by snow fencing or caging. Even then, some animals may still be a problem.

It was thought that the high school could be a great source for growing a stock of Hickories, but Mr. Page felt that they may be too busy. Instead, local nurseries would be approached to see if they would like to be noted, stocked sellers of the City tree. If there is no interest from local nurseries or the high school, a viable source elsewhere should be identified to better direct the Board and interested public.

5-C "Continued Main Street Tree Planting Recommendations" Mr. Page inquired on watering of the newly planted trees near TrustBank and the Carnegie Museum. Krajec Landscaping had included water bags as part of their bill. The water bags were promised to be placed by the end of the week. During the interim, Mr. Page had been placing slow-drip five gallon buckets to provide water.

Once the bags are placed, Mrs. Sterchi informed that the Sewer Department would take the flusher truck to fill the bags on the right-of-way there at the TrustBank lot. The Museum Foundation would be charged with care of the Dogwoods on their property.

Due to the amount of utilities along Main Street, finding areas appropriate for planting were proving to be difficult. The trees proposed for planting along Main Street are only ornamental with non-invasive roots. Mrs. McKinney noted that other communities have numerous trees planted along their main streets where utilities also lie. She wondered how those trees could be planted elsewhere, but not in Olney. She wished to get in touch with other communities on their planting guidelines. Mrs. Sterchi was a member of an online group of other City Clerks in Illinois. She would inquire within that group.

5-D “Potential Plantings Near the Together We Play Park for Shade” Mrs. McKinney would speak with Mr. Henton about their thoughts or plans regarding the Together We Play Park. Any shade trees installed there in the future should be as “clean” as possible as not to create any safety issues in the area.

Mrs. Abell had recently taken her child to the Together We Play Park, and she heard other parents commenting on how nice it would be to have shade in the area.

#### AGENDA #6 “GENERAL DISCUSSION”

6-A “Update: Tree City U.S.A. Application” Mrs. Sterchi was continuing work on the application. It was taking time to gather the necessary numbers for inclusion in the application from the Parks and Street Departments.

A \$2.00 per capita on tree expenses was required as part of the application. With current numbers received, the City’s per capita is currently at \$4.03. She noted that volunteers and hours were factored into the per capita amount, so the Tree Board members and their time spent in meetings, researching and in plantings was usable.

6-B “Potential Removal of Ash Trees from Approved Street Trees in the City Code” Mrs. McKinney expressed concern with Ash trees still being listed in the Code. Mrs. Sterchi wondered if the time would come where the Emerald Ash Borer would no longer be an issue. Mr. Caulfield and Mr. Page felt that the Emerald Ash Borer threat would be around for quite some time.

If Ash trees are not being planted by the City or the Tree Board, leaving the Code as is may not be a problem. Mrs. McKinney felt that having the Ash trees listed as “recommended” street trees could look poorly on the City or the Tree Board.

Mr. Caulfield moved to recommend removal of the Ash tree varieties from the City Code, seconded by Mrs. McDowell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The recommendation would go before the Council before the next Tree Board meeting.

6-C “Partnership with Street Department” Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley keeps frequent contact with Mrs. McKinney regarding tree related issues. She felt a lack in communication with the Street Department, and wondered how that could be improved to better assess tree replacement needs.

In researching information for the Tree City U.S.A. application, it was learned that the Street Department has a log of trees that have been removed and pruned. Perhaps the numbers and locations from the Street Department log could be provided every couple of months.

Mrs. McKinney moved to start receiving tree log updates from the Street Department at least every two months, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

6-D “Seeking Funding Sources” Mrs. Sterchi invited the group to continue thinking about ways of attaining funding for trees. Research on available grants, interested donors, etc. should be taking place.

The recent City trees planted by Krajec Landscaping on Main Street had been subject to Prevailing Wages. This factor was not originally considered by the Board, and increased the amount due for services by quite a bit. The Board would consider this for the future.

For a fun bit of education, Mr. Page brought leaves from Shellbark and Shagbark Hickory varieties. The Shagbark has five leaflets. The Shellbark has seven leaflets. Shellbark Hickories have tendencies to have a more smooth bark, but in Mr. Page’s experience, it is difficult to visually distinguish between the two. The better point of differentiation is in the leaves.

Mr. Caulfield mentioned a conversation that he had with a concerned citizen. There is a tree on E. North Avenue that the resident feels is diseased and dangerous. The Street Department has determined that the tree is not dangerous and will not be removed. Mr. Caulfield inspected the tree and confirmed that while it was diseased with galls, it was not a danger. The resident does not agree. In the sake of compromise, the resident has offered that if the City removes the tree, she will replace the tree with two ornamentals that will not interfere with utility lines. Mrs. Sterchi would be in touch with Mr. Umfleet on this request.

AGENDA #7 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting of the Tree Board would be held on August 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #8 “ADJOURN” Mrs. Sterchi moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. McKinney. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk