

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD  
OLNEY CITY HALL  
AUGUST 2, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 7:01 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, Bill Caulfield, Kelsie Sterchi, Paige Abell, and Bill Page. Andrea McDowell was absent.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 9, 2017” Mrs. McKinney moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on March 9, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Sterchi. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

Chris Simpson entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

AGENDA #5 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: TREES FOREVER GRANT & POSSIBLE PLANTING LOCATIONS” Since the last Tree Board meeting, Mrs. McKinney had met with Barb Grabner-Kerns of the Trees Forever program to discuss a potential grant opportunity for tree planting. Mrs. McKinney distributed a sign-in sheet for the Tree Board members to fill out. Volunteer hours would be noted and used as part of the grant process.

Mrs. McKinney told that the Tree Board would all but be guaranteed at least \$2,000.00 in funds for the purchase of trees to be planted in the City. The Tree Board could apply for more grant funds, but should receive at least \$2,000.00. The trees would need to be planted in 2017, so the species would need to be something that the local nurseries had available or could get very quickly.

Earlier in the day, Mrs. McKinney had visited the local nurseries and dropped off a listing of street and public trees allowed by the City of Olney Municipal Code and trees recommended by Trees Forever. The nurseries would be back in touch with Mrs. McKinney on what sort of trees they had stock of or could order, and pricing structures.

If granted, Mrs. Sterchi asked when the grant funds would be received. Mrs. McKinney replied that her understanding was that the funds would be dispersed quickly once approved.

In addition to tree planting on public property, Mrs. Grabner-Kerns had told Mrs. McKinney that tree plantings on private property could be an option, but would require more work from the Tree Board. Mrs. Grabner-Kerns also recommended that if trees were provided to private property owners, that they make a \$10.00 to \$20.00 donation for the tree. Asking for a donation would hopefully commit the property owner to take better care of their tree.

Mr. Simpson asked where the donation money would go. Mrs. Sterchi and Mrs. McKinney felt that the donation should go to the Tree Maintenance Program line item in the City budget.

Also since the last meeting, Mrs. McKinney surveyed the City Council, City Manager, and Street and Park Departments on whether or not the Tree Board should pursue the grant, where they would like to see more tree plantings, and what they thought the Tree Board should align its focus. Each responder felt that the Tree Board should apply for the grant.

Mrs. Sterchi noted the recent severe storm that had struck Olney on July 22, 2017. There was a tremendous amount of tree damage and removal as a result of the storm. She felt that residents would really appreciate the opportunity to replace some of the trees that were lost unintentionally. Mr. Simpson and Mrs. McKinney agreed.

Mr. Page asked if funds were still available in the Tree Maintenance Program line item. Mrs. Sterchi replied that \$1,000.00 was still available in that line item. No applications had yet been received in 2017 for the Tree Board's Street Tree Replacement Program. Mrs. Sterchi added that the program had also been recently advertised in the new, City quarterly e-newsletter. The Tree Board members requested to be added to the e-mail list for the e-newsletter.

If moving forward with supplying the granted trees on private property, Mrs. McKinney told that there would need to be some sort of sign up or application process. The property owner would also be allowed to choose the kind of tree they wanted from an approved listing of trees. From there, the Tree Board would need to inspect the proposed planting location to be sure it fit within City guidelines. The Tree Board could also assist with the actual tree planting, if needed, and would need to provide the resident with tree planting and care guidelines.

Mrs. Sterchi commented that she would like to apply for more than \$2,000.00 worth of grant funds. She also wondered if the grant application would allow space for the Tree Board to explain the higher request for funding based on the extent of storm damage that Olney had received. Mrs. McKinney agreed that more should be applied for than \$2,000.00. She would try to use the recent storm damage as more support in the application.

Mr. Simpson offered to create an Tree Adoption Application form for property owners.

Mrs. Sterchi asked if Mrs. McKinney would be available to attend the August 14, 2017, City Council meeting when the Council could formally approve the grant application. Mrs. McKinney indicated that she could be present at the City Council meeting.

Mrs. McKinney moved to apply for the Trees Forever grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 for trees to be planted on private property with the property owner(s) submitting a \$10.00 donation per tree to the City of Olney to be placed in the Tree Maintenance Program line item, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

If any trees were leftover, the Tree Board could then take action to have those placed on park property. Mr. Page wondered if trees could be planted on the west side of the soccer field or in a place near the grassy area at the swimming pool. He commented that he was recently at a pool party and shade would have been a nice addition. Mrs. Sterchi told Mr. Page that the Parks & Recreation

Board had created a Comprehensive Plan for parks and recreation areas for the next 10 years. She did not have the plan available at this evening's meeting, but was unsure if planting in or near those areas would interfere with the Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Abell would speak with Parks & Recreation Board Chair Morgan Henton about such plantings near the pool and soccer field. Mr. Caulfield added that if trees were planted near the pool, dropping leaves may be of concern. He would suggest some sort of conifer.

Mrs. McKinney told the Board that A.M. Transport Services would be donating two trees that would be added near the Together We Play Park. Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley had approved the locations. The trees would be planted in the Fall.

Once feedback was received from the local nurseries, Mrs. McKinney would be in contact with Mr. Simpson on the types of trees available for selection to be placed on the Tree Adoption Application. Because the trees would be planted on private property, the plantings would not be limited to what was listed in the City Code for allowable trees along streets and on public property.

AGENDA #6 "UPDATE: MAYOR'S MONARCH PLEDGE MILKWEED GARDEN AT OLNEY PUBLIC LIBRARY" This topic was placed on the agenda for Mrs. McDowell to provide an update, but Mrs. McDowell was not at this evening's meeting. Mr. Simpson asked for a summary of the project. Mrs. Sterchi replied that Mrs. McDowell and her Rotary Club were submitting for a grant that would allow a milkweed garden to be planted on the northern portion of the Olney Public Library's lot.

AGENDA #7 "GENERAL DISCUSSION" Mr. Page felt that the Park Department was doing a great job of caring for the newly planted trees in the Tree Identification Park. He was also pleased that the three trees on Main Street were being watered regularly by the Sewer Department. Mrs. McKinney agreed that the Main Street trees were being very well watered this year. Mr. Page then noted that the Main Street trees would soon need some pruning.

Mr. Page went on to explain that the stakes for the Main Street trees and Tree Identification Park trees would need to be removed before long. It was believed that Krajec Landscaping would refund a certain dollar amount if the stakes were returned to him. The remaining stakes donated by Rural King would be kept in storage for future use.

Mr. Page then told the Board that it appeared that the trees donated to the Carnegie Library were not being watered and their water bags had been removed. A few of the trees donated to the McsBurg School had also died, and the three crabapples that remained were still alive, but their water bags had also been removed.

Mrs. McKinney wondered if Epsom salts should be added to the newly planted trees to help fertilize. Mr. Page felt that fertilizing should wait until the Fall. He had some leftover fertilizer of his own that could be used, depending how many trees were in need.

Mr. Page wondered if any of the Tree Board members had information on a newly planted tree near the playground at the City Park. None of the Tree Board members knew about that particular planting. Mr. Page was curious because it looked like the tree was damaged.

Mr. Caulfield and Mrs. McKinney hoped to schedule a time to prune one of the trees at Musgrove Park near the corner of Mack Avenue and N. East Street.

AGENDA #7 "SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE" The next meeting of the Tree Board would be held on August 30, 2017, 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 8:07 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi  
City Clerk