

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
AUGUST 4, 2020
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, Amanda Thomann, Kelsie Sterchi, and Jan McKinney. Chris Simpson was absent.

AGENDA #3 “DISCUSSION/ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON” Mrs. Sterchi reminded the Board that the only responsibilities of the Chair would be to call meetings of the Tree Board and to lead the meetings.

Mr. Bettis indicated that his personal circumstances had changed and that he was now available to Chair if the Board wished.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to elect Todd Bettis as Chair of the Tree Board, seconded by Mrs. McKinney. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Mr. Bettis presided for the rest of the meeting.

AGENDA #4 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON MAY 9, 2019” Mrs. Sterchi moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on May 9, 2019, seconded by Mrs. McKinney. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

AGENDA #6 “INTRODUCTION OF NEW TREE BOARD MEMBERS” Mr. Bettis asked Mrs. Thomann and Mrs. McKinney what had interested them in joining the Board. Mrs. McKinney replied that she was retired and had time to volunteer. Additionally, prior Tree Board member Brandy McKinney had encouraged Mrs. McKinney to join. Mrs. Thomann stated that she had an overall interest in trees.

AGENDA #7 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: USE OF AMEREN’S RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE GRANT FUNDS” Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that the City would again be able to apply for Ameren’s Right Tree, Right Place Grant in the amount of \$2,500.00. Grant funds could be used to plant new trees outside of right-of-way, used to plant approved replacement trees in the right-of-way, used to maintain existing trees, etc. In order to apply for the grant, information would need to be provided on how the funds would be proposed for use.

The Board discussed various ways of utilizing the funds. Discussion took place on tree plantings on private property, public property, and tree treatments.

Mr. Bettis and Mrs. Thomann felt that the addition of shade trees in Musgrove Park near the ball diamonds would be well-received. Mrs. Sterchi and Mrs. McKinney agreed.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to apply for Ameren's Right Tree, Right Place Grant for the purpose of tree planting in Musgrove Park near the ball diamonds and for the purpose of tree care and supplies for the newly planted trees, seconded by Mrs. Thomann. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

Before moving forward with planting, Mr. Bettis offered to meet with the Park Department Supervisor on location and types of trees to be planted.

AGENDA #8 "GENERAL DISCUSSION" The Board then discussed how trees establish. Mr. Bettis explained that for every one-inch in diameter a new tree had, it would take that many years for the tree to actually become established. Because of this, planting new large trees was not always the best option.

Mrs. McKinney asked how trees were usually purchased. Mr. Bettis replied that it was best to run off of a list of available varieties. It was not always easy to find or order some trees.

Depending on Ameren's turnaround time, it was likely that trees could be added in Musgrove park this year. Months ending in "er" were typically the best months to plant new trees.

The Board then discussed how some trees in the Tree Identification Park were struggling. Mr. Bettis felt that not all trees would thrive in this area and that for some of the trees in the Tree Identification Park, it would be an ongoing struggle.

AGENDA #9 "SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE" The Board felt it was best to wait on scheduling the next meeting until official word was received from Ameren that the grant funds would be awarded.

AGENDA #10 "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 6:31 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk