

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
AUGUST 30, 2017
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, Bill Caulfield, Chris Simpson, Kelsie Sterchi, Paige Abell, and Bill Page. Andrea McDowell was absent.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 2, 2017” Mr. Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on August 2, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Sterchi. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

AGENDA #5 “DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: TREES FOREVER GRANT & POSSIBLE PLANTING” Mrs. McKinney had received word that the Tree Board’s grant application to Trees Forever had been approved in the amount of \$2,400.00, and the check should be cut in early September.

The Board then reviewed the proposed Tree Adoption application. Mrs. McKinney had been told by the Trees Forever representative that a note should be included on the application that the resident themselves would need to call J.U.L.I.E. before planting.

Mr. Page commented that the Richland County Middle School Principal had approached him with the idea of planting a tree each year in honor of that year’s graduating class. He wondered if the school would be eligible for the Tree Adoption. Because the grant application had already been submitted and approved for private property, the school would not be eligible. Even so, Mrs. McKinney told Mr. Page that the Trees Forever website had a variety of resources that could be helpful in the school’s endeavor. However, if all trees purchased as a result of the Trees Forever grant were unclaimed, at that point the trees could be provided to public properties such as schools.

Mr. Simpson asked if the Tree Board should or should not approve each location before planting. Mrs. McKinney replied that the requirement of approving planting locations was also a part of the grant. As long as the planting locations met City Code requirements, tree recipients could plant them wherever they liked.

Mrs. Sterchi recommended that the, “...to help with additional expenses,” should perhaps be deleted to avoid any confusion on how additional expenses would be defined.

Knowing that the grant was approved for private property, Mrs. Sterchi asked if that would also include commercial areas instead of simply residential. Mrs. McKinney replied that private

property could include commercial sites, but approval of Tree Adoption applications would be at the discretion of the Tree Board. For example, a residential site may be more in need of a tree than a commercial site that may have applied.

Mr. Simpson then asked exactly what trees would be available to give away. Mrs. McKinney replied that the list of trees on the application would be sufficient. Keller's Landscaping was the only nursery that replied back to Mrs. McKinney about purchasing the trees. Whatever trees they did not have in stock and readily available, they could easily order in a timely fashion.

Referencing the proposed Tree Adoption application, Mrs. Sterchi recommended adding a deadline for submission and information on where the application could be returned.

It was recommended that the applications be returned to City Hall with a deadline of September 22, 2017. Mrs. Sterchi would also e-mail Mr. Simpson the City of Olney logo to be placed on the application. The deadline information would be printed in bold.

At the Tree Board's next coming meeting after September 22, the Board would review the applications and make their selections. From there, a tentative planting/pick up date of November 4, 2017, was chosen. Trees would need to be picked up at Keller's Landscaping. Tree Board members would assist with planting only if tree recipients requested the help. Mr. Page added that Derek and Mike Keller may also be willing to help planting, if need be.

Mrs. McKinney asked how the Tree Adoption program would be advertised. Mrs. Sterchi replied that she could notify the radio stations and newspapers. She could also place information on the City's website and Facebook page.

Mr. Caulfield commented that this Tree Board should be commended because of the implementation of getting trees planted. While there had been great ideas in the past, he felt that the current Tree Board was very progressive.

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.

AGENDA #7 "GENERAL DISCUSSION" Mrs. McKinney told the Tree Board that she and Doug Krajec went out to take a look at the trees in the Tree Identification Park. Mr. Krajec was also in possession of a list from Mr. Page that detailed trees that had died. Mr. Krajec would be replacing the trees, per his guarantee.

One of the trees that had died was the Pink Dogwood. Mr. Page recommended that the replacement tree could be placed closer to the Musgrove House or some place closer to some shade.

Mrs. McKinney continued that all of the trees in the Tree Identification Park had been fed with fertilizer, and that Mr. Krajec had gone out to prune some of the trees.

The State of Illinois would also soon be donating and planting 50 trees to the City of Olney. The trees would be a mixture of Conifers and Oaks. Parks & Recreation Board Chair Morgan

Henton had been consulted to see if the planting of trees near the soccer field and along the perimeter of the pool's grassy area would interfere with their Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Henton felt that the locations should not be a problem for planting, but the fenced in area at the pool may or may not change in size in the future.

The City Council would be meeting on September 11 and September 25. Mrs. Sterchi wondered which date would be best to recommend the plantings at Musgrove Park to the Council. Mrs. McKinney was unsure, but would be in touch with Mrs. Sterchi.

AGENDA #8 "SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE" The next meeting of the Tree Board would be held on September 27, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #9 "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 7:37 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk