

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
NOVEMBER 2, 2018
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, Dustin Marshall, Bill Caulfield, Chris Simpson, Paige Abell, and Bill Page. Kelsie Sterchi was absent.

AGENDA #3 "APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON MAY 8, 2018" Mr. Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the Tree Board meeting on May 8, 2018, seconded by Mr. Page. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

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

AGENDA #5 "DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITY PARK" Mrs. McKinney told the Board that she had spoken with Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley on some recommendations for trees at the City Park. Due to the demands of the Christmas Light Display set up, and staffing issues, the recommendations list could be addressed, but at a later date. Mrs. McKinney also offered to Mr. Bradley that the Tree Board was willing to help, if needed.

Mr. Simpson asked if the Ameren crews would be able to assist with some of the work to be done on trees with branches in power lines. Mr. Marshall replied that he had spoken with Street Department Supervisor Tyler Kocher on trees interfering with power lines. Mr. Kocher offered to set up a schedule where Ameren crews could take down necessary limbs and trees, and the City would haul them off. Mr. Marshall indicated that it could be some time in January or February of 2019 before Ameren crews could perform such work.

Mr. Marshall continued that next year's Right Tree, Right Place grant could assist with the recommendations for the City Park.

Mrs. McKinney indicated that about 20 trees were suggested for removal, and planting 10 trees.

Mrs. McKinney would follow up with Mr. Bradley after the new year.

Mr. Page referenced the list of recommendations. He noted two Sycamores were proposed for removal. He wondered if those trees could be replaced with new Sycamores. Mrs. McKinney replied that replacement of the Sycamores was planned to be included in the 10 trees to be planted.

Mr. Page then asked for the Board's opinion on whether or not Ash trees should be removed or treated. Mrs. McKinney had discussed the issue with Mr. Bradley. He was unaware that treatments were available. Treatments for Ash trees would be quite expensive. She felt that would need to be approved by the Council. Another challenge would be to find someone available to perform the treatments.

Mr. Page suggested that if the Board wanted to preserve the Ash trees at the City Park, treatment should be considered. Mr. Marshall indicated that treatments were about \$300.00 per tree. In his experience, if Ash trees were not being treated as a preventative, it would be a large gamble to take once Emerald Ash Borers (EAB) came into the area. He felt that the treatments should be used in a preventative manner. He recalled a certain brand, maybe Rainbow Tree Care, that could be used once every three years. Mr. Marshall noted that treatment methods changed rapidly, so that could be different before much longer.

Mr. Page told the Board that Vincennes had started a process of treating their historical Ash trees. He wondered if contact could be made with them to see what products and plan they were using. Mrs. McKinney agreed.

Mr. Page wondered if older Ash trees were more susceptible to EAB than younger trees. Mr. Marshall noted from his experience, once EAB was established in bark, age would not matter. The risk associated with Ash trees in the parks, if hit with EAB, could provide for dangers with trees and limbs falling on visitors.

AGENDA #6 "DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: GREEN SPACE EXPENDITURES" The 2018 Right Tree, Right Place grant funds had been received in the amount of \$2,500.00 and would need to be spent before the end of the fiscal year on items voted on this past February. The Board had voted to use the funds on trees and tree care accessories. Mrs. McKinney felt that some of the funds could be used on EAB preventative treatments. Mr. Simpson advised to do some research on EAB preventative treatments before making any treatment purchases.

Mr. Page offered talking to a contact at Perk-a-Lawn on the treatments, as well.

Mr. Caulfield felt that better pricing may be received dependent on volume of trees to be treated.

Mrs. McKinney also suggested finding a few new trees to be placed at the Tree Identification Park. She also suggested replacing some of the damaged signage at the Tree Identification Park. Perhaps Jamie VanDyke and his students would be able to assist with the signs.

Mr. Simpson had walked through that area recently, and noted that a couple of the trees had died and should be replaced.

Mr. Caulfield asked if Mr. Marshall supervised Ameren's pruning of trees. Mr. Marshall confirmed. He commented that an American Elm was on N. Camp Avenue. He felt that if it was selectively pruned, it could be of benefit. Mrs. McKinney wondered if a tree service should also be found to be certain the tree is pruned properly.

Mr. Marshall added that Ameren contracted out tree trimming services. In most cases, the contracted tree trimmers only trimmed around power lines. Past assisting in the Right Tree, Right Place grant, Ameren would not be allowed to direct work on trees that were not in power lines.

A few members of the Board wondered if the Street Department would be able to assist with the pruning. Mr. Marshall felt that the Street Department would have more flexibility than Ameren, but pointed out that the Street Department's bucket truck was not the best for getting into certain locations. Mr. Marshall added that he would have no problem going with the Street Department during the tree trimming. Mr. Marshall would be in touch with Mr. Kocher.

Mrs. McKinney stated that \$2,500.00 was available from the grant received for trees and tree care accessories, \$42.00 that could be used generally, and \$46.78 remaining on a WalMart gift card. Ash tree protection would be researched, as well as signs for the Tree Identification Park, and care to the tree on N. Camp Avenue.

AGENDA #7 "DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: MEMORY TREES" Mrs. McKinney told the Board that the Rotary Club had contacted her a few months prior about a possible service project. The Club was interested in doing some sort of community project involving trees. An option discussed was Memory Trees that could be planted in memory of individuals that had passed on by way of donation.

Mrs. McKinney pointed out that the Rotary Club was not interested in financing such a project, but was interested in helping facilitate the program by way of volunteering with facilitation and management.

Mrs. McKinney asked the Board for any ideas on implementation of such a project.

Mr. Page asked who would be purchasing the trees. Mrs. McKinney replied that certain individuals would be making a donation towards a Memory Tree, similar to seeing families request donations to the American Cancer Society, Humane Society, etc. in name of their loved one.

Mr. Page then asked where the trees would be planted. Mrs. McKinney replied that the trees could be planted anywhere in the community.

Mrs. McKinney had concerns with donations received in amounts that would not be enough for a Memory Tree. She was also concerned with implementation on the kind of tree, area for planting, and time for planting. She felt that Memory Trees should be planted only two times per year, in the Spring and the Fall, and not after every funeral. Mrs. McKinney also had concerns with signage.

Mr. Marshall recommended setting tiers with dollar amounts. He also wondered what would happen if and when the Memory Tree died. He suggested that the tiers reflect a higher dollar amount than necessary in case a replacement tree was needed.

Mr. Marshall continued with the suggestion that perhaps a Memory Tree not belong to one specific person. For example, the Tree Board and Rotary may be able to say, generally, that X amount of trees were able to be planted this year in memoriam of so and so. Mr. Page and Mr. Caulfield felt that suggestion would be easier, and that should be brought up to Rotary.

In summary, the Board would recommend a general planting of Memory Trees up to twice per year in memory of certain individuals. A Memorial Wall would also be suggested to create a list names of those names of people trees were planted. Having a name placed on a Memorial Wall would be a benefit of one of the donation tiers. Mrs. McKinney felt that Rotary would be interested in helping establish such a wall.

The Board also talked about whether or not Rotary would be interested in having the project include plantings in the names of people not deceased.

AGENDA #8 "GENERAL DISCUSSION" Mr. Marshall noted that Highway 50 was known as the "Redbud Highway." He wondered if trees could be planted near that highway to re-establish some of the Redbuds.

AGENDA #9 "SCHEDULED NEXT MEETING DATE" Unsure of upcoming City Council meetings, the Board suggested meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. If that date was a conflict, the meeting date may be changed. If so, the Board would be notified via e-mail.

AGENDA #10 "ADJOURN" Mr. Page moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Simpson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Paige Abell
Tree Board Member