

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
FEBRUARY 12, 2015
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 Chairman Greg Eyer presiding.

AGENDA #2 “ROLL CALL” The following Tree Board members were present: Greg Eyer, Paige Abell, Chris Simpson, and Kelsie Sterchi. Brandy McKinney, Bill Caulfield and Audrey Jensen were absent.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 13, 2014” Mr. Simpson moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from November 13, 2014, seconded by Mrs. Sterchi. A majority affirmative voice vote was received to approve the minutes.

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

AGENDA #5 “MUSGROVE PARK”

5-A “Adjust Recommendation to Parks & Recreation Board of Tree Planting at Musgrove Park” Mr. Eyer explained that at the last meeting, he was under the impression that Mrs. McKinney was going to recommend 50 trees planted, 20 feet apart. He wanted to clarify that the recommendation should actually be 20 trees, 50 feet apart. The trees would be proposed to be planted along Silver Street where no power lines existed.

It was unknown whether Mrs. McKinney had yet made any recommendations. The last meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board did not show any recommendations from the Tree Board.

Mrs. Sterchi moved to suggest planting a nut grove in any available space at Musgrove Park, per the Parks & Recreation Board’s recommendations, seconded by Mr. Simpson. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The suggestion would be made to the Parks & Recreation Board on February 18, 2015, before going further.

Mr. Simpson moved to suggest planting a total of 16 Bald Cypress trees in the two water detention ponds at Musgrove Park, seconded by Mrs. Sterchi. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The suggestion would be made to the Parks & Recreation Board on February 18, 2015, before going further.

5-B “Create Placement/Name Diagram for 20 Trees” Mr. Eyer wondered if a selected variety of specimens should be planted, or if the trees should be of the same species. The Board felt that the trees should be of the same species to appeal to aesthetics.

After discussion of possible species, Mrs. Sterchi moved to suggest planting 20 Sugar Maple trees along Silver Street at Musgrove Park, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice

vote was received. The suggestion would be made to the Parks & Recreation Board on February 18, 2015, before going further.

5-C “Use of Ameren Grant for Tree Planting at Musgrove Park” The Board had received a \$2,500.00 grant from Ameren earlier in 2014 for tree planting. If and when the recommendations were approved by the Parks & Recreation Board and Council, the grant money could be used for the purchase and planting of the suggested trees. The money should be used by the end of the City’s fiscal year.

The Olney Daily Mail should be notified when a donation or disbursement was made. The public should be aware that a Tree Board is in existence, and that the Tree Board is truly working to better the community.

AGENDA #6 “BOARD DISCUSSION”

6-A “Parks & Recreation Board Meeting from December 17, 2014” No recommendation had been given to the Parks & Recreation Board as of December 17, 2014, in regards to tree planting. Mr. Eyer would be at the Parks & Recreation Board meeting on February 18, 2015, to present the Tree Board’s recommendations. Mrs. Sterchi may be able to attend. Mrs. Sterchi would e-mail the Tree Board members, in case any other person would want to attend the presentation.

6-B “Review of City Tree Plan and List Recommendations/Areas of Concern” Mr. Eyer proposed an addition to the City of Olney Municipal Code that would state before any right-of-way/easement tree was removed, a Tree Board member be consulted. At this time, the only City contact to determine necessity of removal was with the Street Department. It seemed that many street trees were being removed than had been in the past. Squirrel habitats were quickly diminishing. The numbers from the annual squirrel counts were continuing to diminish as well. It seemed squirrels were expanding past City limits to where more of a habitat existed. Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley had mentioned seeing about 30 white squirrels near Borah Lake.

Mrs. Sterchi commented that the Street Department only removed such trees if they were dead, dangerous, diseased, or needed to be removed so City work could be performed. Perhaps a report could be created each time a tree was removed by the City so that the Tree Board could review it and recommend a replacement. Mr. Eyer still wished to have a member of the Tree Board review the tree before removal. Mr. Eyer, Mr. Caulfield, and Mrs. McKinney would be best suited for such a suggestion.

A tree replacement program could also be explored.

Mrs. Sterchi would begin to create a list of suggestions for the Code. Absent members may also have suggestions.

6-C “Olney/Richland County 175th Anniversary in 2016-Tree Board Contribution” Mrs. Sterchi told the Board that 2016 would be Olney and Richland County’s 175th anniversary (dodransbicentennial). She was also a member of the Dodransbicentennial Commission. Mrs. Sterchi felt that the Tree Board should create some sort of plan to contribute to the special celebration.

Some suggestions were: planting a garden, planting a State tree (White Oak), giving away seedlings for planting, listing specimen trees for tours, or declaring of a City of Olney tree. The Tree Board would begin brainstorming ideas for 2016.

AGENDA #7 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting of the Tree Board would be on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #8 “ADJOURN” Mr. Eyer moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi