

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 7:05 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: Paige Abell, Bill Caulfield, Brandy McKinney, and Kelsie Sterchi. Audrey Jensen, Chris Simpson, and Greg Eyer were absent.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON APRIL 23, 2015” Mrs. Abell moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from April 23, 2015, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. 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 “TREE PLANTING”

5-A “Discussion: Recent Musgrove Park Tree Planting & Lessons Learned” Mr. Eyer had originally requested this item to be placed on the agenda. In his absence, the Board thought the topic may have to do with better care or attention to the recently planted Sugar Maple and Bald Cypress trees.

Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley had spoken with Mrs. Sterchi to indicate that the City was watering the trees once to twice per week. A citizen had noticed that the bags were usually empty. Mr. Bradley wanted to be sure that the Tree Board was aware that the trees’ water bags, after being filled, would be empty within a few hours.

Mrs. McKinney added that she had planted about 15 trees at her property this year, and they had a similar appearance to the Musgrove Park trees. Mrs. McKinney and Mr. Caulfield felt that the Bald Cypress trees’ current appearance was not abnormal for the age of the trees. One Bald Cypress tree was, however, in decline.

A few months ago, some of the water bags had been damaged from mowing. The Park Department had replaced the damaged bags.

Overall, the Board felt happy with the progress of the newly planted trees.

5-B “Discussion: Bower Park Tree Replacement” Earlier in 2015, a large tree had been taken down from Bower Park. The original plan was to plant a few trees in the park as donated by the Modern Woodmen of America. Due to placement difficulties from J.U.L.I.E markings, the trees could not be planted at Bower Park. Instead, Mr. Bradley told Mrs. McKinney of an area at the City Park where the trees could be planted. By help of volunteers, the trees were successfully planted in the City Park.

Mrs. McKinney wished to see a replacement tree planted in Bower Park during the Spring of 2016. Mrs. Sterchi mentioned that the new City Manager wished to re-work Bower Park to become

more attractive as it was a focal point on Whittle Avenue. The Board would be willing to assist the City Manager with ideas and recommendations.

5-C “Discussion: Ornamental Tree Planting Along Main Street” Mr. Caulfield wished to see some ornamental trees or flowering bushes planted along Main Street, off of City right-of-way. Such areas would be near businesses, and technically on the business’ property. Crape Myrtles and/or Rose of Sharon would be his recommendations. Any plantings would need to not interfere with sidewalks or water lines.

Mr. Caulfield had heard from Lauren McClain that her State Farm office may be interested in contributing toward such a project. If the Board were to move forward with such a project, it would essentially be a way to assist interested business in such a planting program.

AGENDA #6 “GENERAL DISCUSSION”

6-A “Olney’s Greatest Trees Brochure” This topic was tabled until the next Tree Board meeting.

6-B “Dodransbicentennial (175th Anniversary) Tree Board Involvement” Mrs. Sterchi had a few ideas of ways the Tree Board could commemorate the celebration year. She thought the Board could name an official City of Olney tree and/or flower. The tree should be one that produces food for the valued squirrels. She also suggested a tree planting in dedication of the 175th year.

Mrs. McKinney offered that a miniature garden or grove could be created during this time with a plaque stating the purpose of planting as part of the celebration.

Before moving forward, Mrs. Abell wondered if there was a need for any additional Tree Board members. While there were technically no vacancies, it was noted that Ms. Jensen had been finding difficulty in attending meetings and may be re-thinking her commitment. Mrs. Abell suggested that if any vacancies arose, Andrea McDowell had expressed interest in volunteering as a member of the Tree Board.

Mrs. McKinney also encouraged the Board to take some time to canvass the parks to observe any areas that would be appropriate for a planting, or to observe any greenery that was in distress.

AGENDA #7 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting of the Tree Board would be on November 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #8 “ADJOURN” Mrs. McKinney moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi

