

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD  
OLNEY CITY HALL  
NOVEMBER 10, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Tree Board was called to order at 7:04 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 SEPTEMBER 22, 2015” Mrs. Abell moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from September 22, 2015, 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 “TREE PLANTING”

5-A “In Honor Of Tree Plantings” Mr. Caulfield mentioned that he would like to plant a tree in the City Park in honor of Dr. Walter, a gastroenterologist. The doctor does not reside in Olney, but had helped many citizens. Mr. Caulfield had spoken with Dr. Walter, and the doctor had no issue with such a planting.

Mr. Caulfield was also curious if the RCCU #1 would be interested in planting a tree in honor of past Superintendent Marilyn Holt. Mr. Caulfield hoped that Mr. Simpson would be present to provide feedback at this evening’s meeting. Mr. Caulfield hoped that the tree could be planted on one of the school’s properties.

Mr. Caulfield also mentioned that he was pleased to see that sense of urgency that the City workers had been taking on addressing problematic trees that he had been reporting.

Mrs. Sterchi would speak with Park Department Supervisor Frank Bradley on what funds, if any, were still available for the purposes of tree planting/care. She did note that if trees were planted on non-City property, the trees would most likely need to be donated or purchased by the property owner. Mrs. McKinney felt strongly that the trees could be donated.

Mr. Caulfield would speak with the someone from RCCU #1 about their thoughts on a tree planting for Mrs. Holt.

As a side note, Mr. Caulfield would also prefer to not have placards placed at these proposed trees. Instead, he would like to see a certificate given to the honoree.

5-B “Spring 2016 Proposed Tree Planting and Locations” Mr. Caulfield passed around a listing of suggested trees that could be appropriate for placement along Main Street. None of the trees were prone to disease, nor were they toxic to local wildlife.

Mrs. McKinney noted that Street Department Supervisor Tom Umfleet was not keen on having crabapple trees planted as they created a problem with birds and the messes that can be made.

Mr. Caulfield did not want to disrupt any areas along Main Street, but just fill in some voided areas. Mrs. Sterchi requested that at the next meeting a listing of proposed areas along Main Street should be provided to construct a better plan for presentation.

Mrs. McKinney had spoken with Jamie VanDyke at the high school. Mr. VanDyke teaches an arboretum class and was extremely interested in having a tree identifying location at Musgrove Park for educational purposes. Mr. VanDyke and Mr. Simpson would be great sources of reference when constructing a plan for presentation to the Council. Mrs. McKinney would research this further.

#### AGENDA #6 “175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY”

6-A “Selection of Proposed City Tree/Flower” Mrs. Sterchi could not find that the City had a designated tree or flower. As contribution by the Tree Board for 2016, she thought that the Tree Board could suggest an official tree and/or flower be named for the City.

Mrs. Sterchi went on to recommend the Hickory tree as the Shagbark and Shellbark varieties were known as some of the finest nut bearing trees. The City Tree should produce nuts as food for the prized squirrels. Additionally, the squirrels help to maintain the tree by knocking off loose tissue and eating some of the galls that can form.

Mrs. Sterchi also recommended either the Blanket Flower or Knockout Rose as the City Flower due to their low maintenance requirements and bright colors.

Mr. Caulfield moved to recommend the Hickory tree as the official City of Olney Tree and the Knockout Rose as the official City Flower, seconded by Mrs. Abell. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. Mrs. Sterchi would notify the Tree Board members when the recommendation would go to the Council.

6-B “Booth Ideas for Festival” Mrs. Sterchi suggested that a donor could be located to donate many City Trees or City Flowers to be given away or sold for a nominal fee at the festival. Mrs. McKinney felt that she could have a donor for such an event.

The festival would take place on Saturday, July 23, 2016. Mrs. Sterchi and Mrs. McKinney would be unavailable to work at the proposed booth that day.

Mrs. McKinney also suggested a display booth.

This topic would be re-visited at the next Tree Board meeting when more members/volunteers were present.

6-C “Other Plans for the Celebration Year” Mrs. Sterchi suggested planting a City Tree on Arbor Day in 2016. Mrs. McKinney also suggested surrounding the tree with the City Flower.

Mrs. Sterchi wondered if there was any good, visible location in town that had one or more Hickory trees. Mr. Caulfield mentioned a property on E. South Avenue and one on the south side of Douglas Drive. He would look around more while walking his mail route.

If a location was found, Mrs. Sterchi offered that the tree(s) could be lit with white Christmas lights to draw attention to the area. Mrs. McKinney also suggested publicizing a call to action for citizens to light up their own Hickory trees.

Mrs. Sterchi moved recommend a City Tree and Flower planting on Arbor Day, and to promote the lighting of City Trees around town, seconded by Mrs. McKinney. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

AGENDA #7 “GENERAL DISCUSSION”

7-A “Olney’s Greatest Trees Brochure” This item was tabled from the September meeting in Greg Eyer’s absence. Mr. Eyer was again absent from this evening’s meeting, so the topic was again tabled.

Mr. Caulfield reported a tree that was not cut properly by a local tree service. The way it was cut will now promote rotting. This tree was located on S. East Street on the west side.

Adoption of an attendance policy was also discussed to be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

AGENDA #8 “SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE” The next meeting date of the Tree Board was scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016, 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 7:50 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi