

CITY OF OLNEY TREE BOARD
OLNEY CITY HALL
JUNE 19, 2014
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 Chairman Greg Eyer presiding.

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

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF TREE BOARD MEETING ON MAY 21, 2014” Mr. Eyer moved to approve the Tree Board minutes from May 21, 2014, seconded by Mrs. McKinney. 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 “BOARD DISCUSSION”

5-A “Discussion: Reconsider Meeting Dates/Times/Locations for the Year” After reading the meeting minutes from May 21, 2014, Chris Simpson had contacted Mrs. Sterchi regarding the voted Tree Board meeting dates, times and locations for the year. Many of the dates and times were the same as the School Board’s meetings. Mr. Simpson would be unable to attend Tree Board meetings if the dates and times stayed the same.

The Board maintained that Thursday evenings were best with a starting time of 7:00 p.m. City Hall was also deemed to be the best location. Meeting dates for the rest of the year were decided to be as follows: July 10, August 14 and November 13.

Mr. Eyer moved to approve the newly proposed meeting dates, times and location, seconded by Mrs. Sterchi. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

5-B “Discussion: Timeline for Following Up on TrustBank Tree Work” Mr. Eyer reported that he had spoken with Kat Leaf of Leaf Tree Service regarding proposed work to the tree on the TrustBank’s grass lot. Mrs. Leaf mentioned that due to the weather, the area had been too wet to begin any work. Mr. Eyer planned to call Mrs. Leaf again to follow up on the tree work. Mr. Eyer will e-mail Mrs. McKinney and update.

Mrs. McKinney had been also been speaking with Debi Phillips from TrustBank regarding the tree work. Mrs. Phillips said that any time would be an acceptable time to begin work on the tree. There were no upcoming events to be held on the lot.

Mr. Caulfield mentioned a product by Behr that would feed and treat trees for a year at a time. He believed that WalMart and Rural King sold the product.

5-C “Discussion: Tree City USA Application Process” Mr. Eyer had begun the application process for Tree City USA. There was a portion of the application that Mr. Eyer did not have the information to

complete. He passed along the form Tree City USA Standard 3 Worksheet to Mrs. Sterchi for completion. Mrs. Sterchi would find the needed information and return to Mr. Eyer as soon as possible.

Mr. Eyer also mentioned that there was a portion that asked for information to compare if the City's tree ordinance matched what Tree City USA recommended. Mr. Eyer felt that the City may lack in a couple of the requirements. He would ask for some leeway on any minor issue. Past that, an amendment to the ordinance may need to be requested to the Council.

5-D "Discussion: Additional Tree Locations-Musgrove Park" Members of the Board who had children is baseball/softball again reiterated the importance of shade trees. Mrs. Sterchi had obtained three copies of the Musgrove Park schematic from Charleston Engineering. The Board laid out the schematics and began discussing potential tree placement.

Currently, only one section of the park offered shade for bleachers. More areas should also be considered. Mr. Eyer also suggested a grove or groves of trees. A nut grove could be constructed that could tie in with Olney's white squirrel theme. Mr. Eyer played around with names such as Squirrel Town, Squirrel Alley or Squirrel Café. Mrs. McKinney felt that a section to the east of Girls Minors 8 or to the northeast of the area titled Existing Field could be ideal for a grove. Mr. Eyer cautioned against putting a grove so close to East Street as it could increase dangerous squirrel traffic.

Mr. Eyer also suggested areas near the sidewalk bordering Silver Street. Shade trees would be appreciated near parking areas as well. Mr. Eyer's brainstorming continued by speaking of walking paths through the park that could go past labeled trees that would read bits of information about the tree. Also, the median near the pool bath house could be ideal for two nice specimen trees such as oaks.

Mrs. McKinney wondered if trees could be planted in the water detention areas. Mrs. Sterchi was uncertain, but would double check with City Engineer Charleston.

Mr. Eyer asked if the Musgrove Park schematic was available in e-mail form. Mrs. Sterchi would ask Charleston Engineering if they could provide a file that would be appropriate for e-mail.

5-E "Discussion: Tree Selections for Potential Public Vote-Musgrove Park" Due to the cost of tree planting, Mr. Eyer felt that fundraising may be needed. Mr. Eyer wondered about eligibility from the Carrie Winters Fund or the Johnsie Fiock Fildes Nature Foundation. Mrs. Sterchi would check into fund requirements and then report back to the Board.

On the topic of funds, Mr. Caulfield mentioned that Ameren supplied a grant that would award funds, hopefully in the amount of \$5,000, to Olney. If granted, the Olney Daily Mail could be notified. An article could give good press to Ameren, and also make the citizens of Olney aware that their tax dollars were not needed to fund trees and planting.

Mr. Caulfield presented a list of utility friendly trees. Mr. Caulfield also presented Ameren's Grant Application Form. Mr. Caulfield felt that the grant money could be used on trees near the Ameren wires, but also elsewhere in Musgrove Park. The present members of the Tree Board signed the grant application.

Moving on, Board members presented trees that had been researched that could be a good fit for Musgrove Park. The list would not be a restrictive list, but would create a starting point for the Board. Suggested trees were: White Oak, Burr Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Walnut, Pecan, Hazelnut, Buckeye, Bald Cypress, Weeping Willow, Conifers, Holly, White Pine, Pie Cherry, Little Leaf Linden, Chinese Elm,

European Hornbeam, Catalpa, Gallery Pear, Red Maple and Zelcova. Mrs. Sterchi would e-mail the list to the Board so they could start brainstorming placement. In the future, the Tree Board would want to hear public opinion on kinds of trees planted in the park area.

Mr. Eyer moved to approve the suggested list of trees, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received.

5-F “Discussion: Coordination Protocol with Parks & Recreation Board” A few members of the Board were curious as to how correspondence with the Parks & Recreation Board should and would be handled. Additionally, Mr. Eyer wondered what some of the pressing topics were that the Parks & Recreation Board had been discussing. Mrs. Sterchi replied that she had yet to see minutes from the meetings, but that their agendas suggested that one of the first places to be addressed was Musgrove Park.

To Mrs. Sterchi’s knowledge, a multi-purpose field was being constructed at the southeast portion of the park. The field would be 80% of the size of a football field. Also, the dirt piles would be removed by the end of the year. Mr. Eyer wondered if the dirt piles could stay. Mrs. Sterchi replied that plans were in place to use the dirt piles for the multi-purpose field and other City maintenance purposes.

Mr. Eyer asked what the most appropriate way would be to present a potential site map for trees in Musgrove Park. Mrs. Sterchi suggested that when a plan was ready for presentation, the Tree Board ask to be placed on a Parks & Recreation Board agenda. From there, Tree Board members would attend the Parks & Recreation Board meeting to present the plan. The Parks & Recreation Board may or may not be able to make any decision or recommendation on the evening that the plan was presented.

Mr. Eyer suggested having a plan ready to present to the Parks & Recreation Board around September of 2014.

5-G“General Discussion” Mrs. Sterchi wanted to discuss her upcoming maternity leave. She would be e-mailing the Board a list of OMA compliances that would need to take place for the next meetings to be complaint.

AGENDA #6 “ADJOURN” Mr. Eyer moved to adjourn the Tree Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Caulfield. A majority affirmative voice vote was received. The Tree Board meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi