

TREE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time: September 10, 2015, 6:30 PM
Location: One Renaissance Center-345 High Street
First Floor-City Council Chambers

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Doris Bergen, Armand Bloch, Emily Fuhrmann, Buck Huber, Louise Jewett, Chelsea Obrebski, Carrie Pate

Members Absent: Ann Coombs, Dan Gladish

Other Attendees: Carol Christian, Mark Murray, Andy Weltzer, Mrs. Obrebski, Joel Fink

II. Board Minutes

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Moved: Armand Bloch

Seconded: Buck Huber

Motion passed.

III. New Members

The board welcomed new members Emily Fuhrmann and Louise Jewett. Each continuing member introduced himself/herself.

IV. Report from Mark Murray

Mark verified contact information for each member and indicated that the Management Plan passed its second reading by city council. No questions were raised.

The new municipal arborist position has been placed in Schedule A of the city's Classification and Compensation Plan. The job description is being finalized. A number of tasks for the arborist were suggested by the Tree Board. The board was informed by Kevin Maynard, Director of Electric, that the description will include some tasks that fall outside of Electric Utility function.

Rich Engle, Public Works Director, responded to concerns raised by Doris. He said that ornamental trees were planted in the High Street median because of safety reasons, but that larger shade trees will be planted in the sidewalk areas after the existing power poles are removed. He expects the subcontractor will make no changes in the approved planned species list.

V. Report from Larry Bagford

Larry submitted a report to the board concerning the trees that residents requested permission to remove. The report included addresses to which Larry had sent letters informing residents to remove dead trees. Board members reconfirmed that by ordinance, hazard street trees that are reported will be removed by the city at home owner expense. Larry will continue to send letters to the owners of public-way non-hazard dead trees and stumps that are reported, informing them that by

ordinance these should be removed and the stumps ground to six inches below ground level. Doris will ask Larry to clarify the length of time that owners are given to comply. Board members are encouraged to report to Public Works hazard trees that they observe. Non-hazard dead trees and stumps that are in the public-way should be reported to Larry.

IV. Tree Nursery Update

The remaining residents who requested trees will receive these this fall. If the nursery does not contain a sufficient number of trees that are ready to be planted, additional trees will be purchased. Sufficient funds have been identified. Mark indicated that the city's Green Team will assist in planting these trees.

Jack, Andy, and Joel will meet to develop a list of the trees to be purchased in order to replenish the nursery stock. Because so many trees were planted this year, a larger number of new trees will be purchased from 2016 funds.

V. Arboretum Update

Doris showed board members the identification signs that will be placed on the posts that will be installed next to the arboretum trees. Steve Timmer of the Parks Conservancy has agreed to purchase and install the posts.

The sum of \$321.90 will be paid for the signs.

Moved: Buck Huber

Seconded: Armand Bloch

Motion passed.

V. Tree Lab Update

Carol reported that there are trees at some of the schools that still must be labeled. She will work on this task after Chelsea helps her identify them. Tree Lab funds are available if any trees must be replaced.

VI. Tree Academy

Buck reported that the third year "junior class" of the ODNR-sponsored academy will meet for two days beginning on September 21st. Hamilton is hosting this academy. Ann Coombs and Buck Huber are attending and are providing refreshments.

VIII. Other Business

Buck Huber proposed that an "Electronic Tree Contest" be conducted this fall. In October or November, residents will be invited to take digital photographs of trees that they admire and to submit these photographs to Buck. The board supported this idea and thanked Buck.

IX. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Armand Bloch

Seconded: Buck Huber

Motion passed.

The next meeting of the Hamilton Tree Advisory Board will be **on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 6:30 PM.**