

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
May 13, 2015

Members Present: Irv Logan, James Crowe, Mary Harvey, Theo Smith, Tom Sontag, Beth Skelton, Mark Wallace, and Paulette Carr. Barbara Chicherio excused

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by President Beth Skelton

Disposition of the minutes: Minutes from the March 11 meeting were read, Tom motioned to accept, Theo second, motion passed.

Hearings: Before beginning the hearings Beth described the protocol for each hearing and the criteria used for each judgement.

Dale Frohlichstein- 443 Jackson: Mr. Frohlichstein was before the commission requesting that two Pin Oaks in front of his property be removed. His reasoning was that the two trees dropped acorns and were a safety hazard to people entering his property. He also expressed concern about the damage the acorns produced when they fell on cars parked in front of his property. He also complained about sewer issues that he suspected were a result of tree roots in his sewer lateral. James inspected the two trees and found them to be in a healthy condition, he intends to have the trees trimmed after Oak Wilt season sometime in late July or August. After discussion between the members of the commission and Mr. Frohlichstein, Beth called for a vote. The commission voted unanimously not to cut down the trees in question but to follow the city forester's recommendation.

Linda Conner- 1343 Coolidge: Ms. Conner had appeared before the commission in May of 2012 to request the Pin Oak tree in front of her house be removed because she could not grow grass in her front yard. The commission turned down her request at that time instructing the city forester to trim her tree instead. This time Ms. Conner appeared before the commission to request the removal of the aforementioned Pin Oak tree, because it was subject to tent caterpillar infestation each spring. Ms. Conner made it clear to the commission that she was very afraid of the caterpillars and felt a prisoner in her own house. James inspected the tree and found it to be in a healthy condition. After discussion between the members of the commission and Ms. Conner, Beth called for a vote. The commission voted unanimously not to cut down the tree in question but to request the tree be aggressively trimmed after Oak Wilt season.

Council Liaison Update: Paulette reported the council is reviewing the new budget. The two bond issues did not pass, and the council will explore other means for financing street repairs.

Monthly Forestry Reports: After review Irv motioned for approval, Tom second, motion passed

Old Business:

- A) By- Law Discussion: Tom presented a template for the by- laws and his suggestions. After discussion was agreed that the members of the commission would bring their suggestions to the July meeting
- B) Arbor Day: Arbor Day will be celebrated on May 18 at the bird corridor in Ruth Woods with a tree planting.

New Business

- A) Tree City USA ceremony: Mary reported on her experience as the commissions' representative at this year's ceremony.
- B) Arbor Day 2016: Beth requested the members begin planning the ceremony and bring suggestions to the July meeting.

Update of Development Projects: Nothing to report

Citizens' comments: none.

Irv motion for adjournment, Mark second, meeting adjourned at 9pm

Submitted by James Crowe