

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
November 9, 2015

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Beth Skelton.

Minutes were read from Sept 9; Tom motioned to accept, Mark second, motion passed.

Council Liaison Update: There was no update Paulette Carr was absent due to a city council meeting

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

Citizen Hearing: A) Joe Edwards Ackert Walk: Mr. Edwards, representing the Loop Special Business District, requested the removal of five female Ginkgo trees from Ackert Walk due to the disgusting odor of the seeds. The concern of the businesses, as cited by Mr. Edwards, was that the odoriferous seed pods were dragged into the stores on the shoes of customers. James described the history of the plantings, the Parks Department has offered to increase the sweeping of the area during the 2 months the trees are dropping seeds. After discussion the commission voted to accept the city proposal for more sweeping and requested Mr. Edwards report back if this remedy is not adequate.

B) Barry Zeffren- 8150 Amherst: Mr. Zeffren had requested the removal of two Linden street trees in front of his property. James inspected the two trees and determined them to be in good condition only in need of trimming. Mr. Zeffren appealed the decision on the grounds that his lawn is predominantly zoysia and is depreciating due to the shade from the Linden trees. He also described the roots of the trees as a trip hazard. Commission members observed the trees before the meeting and after discussion the commission voted to accept the city recommendation to trim the trees. Various members offered Mr. Zeffren alternatives to zoysia turf and he agreed to investigate the substitutes.

Old Business:

- A) Tree City US A signs: Beth is working with the Park Foundation to procure extra signs using their funds. She will be meeting with them on November 18th.
- B) Arbor Day 2016: The commission agreed to the tentative date of April 29, 2016 for the Arbor Day tree planting in Majerius Park. It was also agreed to 10 to 15 trees to be planted by volunteers. Barb and Mary will work together to advertise and coordinate the volunteers.

New Business:

- A) Parkview Gardens tree plantings: Parkview Gardens Association has purchase 40 trees to be planted by their contractor along city right of way in Parkview Gardens. The project was coordinated with James and has the city's approval.
- B) Gannondale Tree Project: Nancy Baglan, Linda Fried, and Beth have distributed flyers in the Gannondale neighborhood describing the city's offer of new tree plantings this winter and spring. So far four addresses have requested new trees.
- C) Delmar Blvd. Tree Project: At the request of Mayor Welsch, Nancy Baglan and Beth surveyed the street trees and determined available planting spaces. Using this survey, Mayor Welsch will be requesting planting of street trees along Delmar Blvd. from the St. Louis County Council.

Update of Development Projects: none

Citizens' comments: None

Tom motioned for adjournment, Mark second, meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Submitted by James Crowe