

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING

September 11, 2013

Members Present: Ted Slegesky, Jack Breier, James Crowe, Linda Fried, Carole Dean, Anu Hittle.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by President Ted Slegesky

Minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting were reviewed; Anu motioned to accept, Jack second, motion passed.

City Council Liaison Update: None

Monthly Forestry Reports: May, June, July and August were reviewed and accepted

New Business:

- A) Hearing on the appeal of 7100 Willowtree. The property owner Ms. Beverly Johnson was not present. Ms. Johnson was appealing the city forester's decision to trim her Pin Oak tree, requesting it be cut down. Her reasons expressed to the city forester were: the tree sheds leaves all year long, the acorns are a nuisance and a hazard, and squirrels are climbing the tree and jumping over to her roof. Linda commented that the Pin Oak was one of the best looking trees in the area. Anu questioned as to whether the tree was on the city property when she bought the house, if this was so she should have been aware of the possibility of the tree dropping leaves and acorns. Ted said it was his feeling that the city should not remove a live healthy tree because of all the benefits to the environment. After discussion Ted called for a vote on the appeal, a yes vote would validate the city's position, a no vote would be in favor of Ms. Johnson's appeal. The commission voted unanimously to deny the appeal.

Old Business:

- A) Memorable Tree Walk and Park Foundation fund raiser: Ted reported there are eight sections of the tree walk and five are completed. Still need photos of the arboretum and bird corridor, Ted anticipates those to be completed this fall. Jack reported he had received the signs and delivered them to James for installation. Ted and James will coordinate the sign distribution and installation, concentrating on the fifteen trees for the Park Foundation fund raiser. Linda will work on a post card to send to the property owners of the trees located on private property. The post card will describe the memorable tree and a link to it on the tree walk map. Jack will obtain the names of the property owners and give that to Linda to address the cards.

Update of Development Projects:

- A) James presented a list of the plants to be installed at the new Walgreens location at Delcrest and Delmar. Anu questioned why there were not more native plants utilized in the commercial landscapes. After discussion it was decided the Urban Forestry Commission will need to make a policy statement regarding native landscaping. Anu will pursue this with our Council Liaison Steve Kraft and report at the next meeting.

Discussion and citizen comments: James presented a letter in support of the Green Center's application to the Missouri Department of Conservation for a grant to clean up Kaufman Woods of invasive species and to plant native plants.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jack second, meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm
Next meeting date: November 13 at 7:00 pm.

James Crowe