
Absent: R. Penkala

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2019 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda – M. Grassa presented agenda and members approved as proposed.

Public Comments- None.

Recommendations for City Master Plan- T. Losey emailed M. Baumgarten and D. Hennen and is waiting to hear back. The tree board would like to play an active role in the city master plan update. City council will be scheduling meetings for public input. First meeting may be December 16, 2019. D. Hennen suggested that Erin Schlutow, the new community development director, be contacted for more info.

M. Grassa asked the board if there were concerns that our liaison, D. Hennen, has occasional scheduling conflicts due to ZBA meetings. The Mayor appoints council members to each board. D. Hennen expressed his desire to remain on as the tree board liaison. He said some council members are on two to three boards, so this isn’t unique to our board.

Update to City Prohibited Tree Species List- D. Schueller has sent an email to Judd Hart to find out if he thinks the city prohibited tree species list needs to be updated. He has not heard back and will follow up.

D. Schueller was pleasantly surprised with the number of orders for the fall planting program even with the removal of maple trees from the list. A few people asked about the change and when they learned of the reasoning of diversifying the tree canopy, they made another choice. Concerns about the Asian-long horned beetle working its way into the Midwest is one reason maples have been removed from the offering.

About 100 trees were ordered this year, which is comparable to previous years.

Grant Information and request for next year’s budget - T. Losey noted the DNR application is due in September, so the board will need to focus on completing the application for September 2020. It is a matching 1:1 grant, so the city of Berkley would need to budget for this. The board discussed using the grant for a tree inventory to update the tree survey that was done in the mid-1990s. K. Karlis reported that an Kevin Sayer from the DNR estimated it would cost about $4.00 per tree, and with about 6,000 trees on city property, it would cost about $24,000 total. To apply for the grant, the city would need to budget $12,000 from the general budget for the matching funds.

This grant may be used for a tree survey, tree planting programs, environmental outreach, and more.
D. Schueller would like to get a program for full-subsidy of the tree planting program by the city going as soon as possible. He would like all residents to have the option to get a tree without having to worry about the expense. At about 100 trees requested per year, and an actual cost of about $270 per tree (tree and labor to install), to total budget would be about $27,000 per year. Since the city currently budgets a partial subsidy of the planting, at 50% of the cost, the budget increase would be $13,500.

*January meeting the board needs to finalize budget request for council consideration.

Under consideration: $12,000 for grant matching for tree inventory and $13,500 to sponsor free tree planting for residents, up to 100 trees per year.

**City Tree Survey:** K. Karlis finished entering data from the tree survey done in the mid-1990s. Kudos to her for completing this task ahead of her stated goal to finish in December! She handed out a summary of the results to everyone present.

A total of 5858 trees were counted. Back then, 66% of trees on city easements and boulevards were maples. 10% ash, 8% honeylocust, and 4% elm. It is assumed many of the elm and ash no longer exist due to the Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer that devastated trees in the state in the 1990s-2000s.

Her call with K. Slayer at the DNR centered around how the city should conduct a tree inventory/survey. He suggested that it be done to assess overall tree health as opposed to species/size. He was skeptical the board could find enough volunteers to participate and be able to train them properly to accurately assess tree health. He thought the board could use the opportunity as a community engagement event with volunteers shadowing the professionals performing the survey.

He recommended a professional company be used to do the survey that has the proper expertise and equipment. K. Karlis stressed the importance of the data collection being compatible with the CSV files and the GIS system used by Berkley DPW. The computer data from the 90s is obsolete and unreadable by modern computers, which prompted the time-intensive data entry.

**Oakland 200, oak trees on Woodward**- The board invited a representative to attend this meeting, but no one attended.

The board recommends that no oak trees be planted along the Woodward corridor. It is suggested Oakland 200 contact Roseland Park as they may welcome the offer of free oak trees.

**Four Seasons Garden Center**- M. Grassa said Four Seasons contacted her because they want to do some sort of project for the city. No specifics. They were invited to attend the meeting, but no one showed.

*M. Grassa- will you email the contact person at Four Seasons for specifics?

**Addendum to agenda**- Discussion of changing future meeting dates to the fourth Monday of the month. No decision made. Tabled until January meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7 pm at the Berkley City Library.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

**2019 Meeting Schedule:**

December 2019 – No Meeting – Holiday Parade. Meet at DPW at 5:00pm to participate.