Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 13, 2018
7:00 p.m. – Berkley Public Library


Absent: M. Schneider, T. Losey, D. Hennen

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Welcome – new student representative – A. Turner – he is a Berkley HS student and will go to college in the area for fisheries and forestry. We are glad to have Anthony on the Tree Board. He has a passion for trees and will definitely offer valuable insights to the Board.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved.

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

Public Comments - None

Grant Information – T. Losey asked D. Schueller for help with the DTE Tree Planting Grant. budget. D. Schueller is checking now to see if we can apply for the grant because we use the State of Michigan Act 51 funds to support the annual tree planting we may not be eligible for this grant funding. He will do the research as we are using the funds for planting trees. This is matching grant up to $3,000 specifically for right of way or public property trees. This work must be done by May 2020. This grant is not intended to be for every year. Only for the tree cost and not for planting cost. No more than $125 per tree. D. Schueller has a message into the State of Michigan to double-check this stipulation. He will keep everyone posted once I hear back.

Tree City USA Award – D. Schueller reported on the Growth Award plan. M. Grassa said it sounds like we already have the points from the work we did last year to redo the city tree ordinances. This needs to be verified and D. Schueller will help us with this task. The final copy came from City Clerk to the Tre Board on 12/14/18 so we must check and see if we can use that work for the 2019 Award application. We may not be able to use the root barrier for sidewalk protection for points towards this award either according to D. Schueller’s interpretation of the requirements for the award.

Survey Information – K. Karlis updated the group on the work we will be doing on our city tree survey. She is going to work on putting the information from the past report into an excel spreadsheet. K. Karlis and D. Schueller met with the city’s IT staff person and they are working to find the data and get it in a format that can be modified with up to date information about our trees. The plan is we will be able to get a good count and identification of city trees for our records. There are new invasive insects that will take the maple tree from us in the future. We will cut this out of our tree planting offerings in the future. We will offer trees that are more of a variety.

Arbor Day was April 26 Report – M. Grassa asked for comments about how the event went from the Tree Board members. The planting went well. Please send pictures to D. Schueller if you took any. These will be used for our Growth Award. The event was nice with the book reading and the partnership from Parks & Rec and Library as well as Tree Board. Good idea to have several entities involved in this annual project.
**Root Barriers** – There has been some research on root barrier solutions and it is a mixed bag as far as results. The cost to have them installed would be expensive. The company installing the sidewalks starting after July 1, 2019 could also install these root barriers. We will have to decide who will pay for this, it most likely will have to be the resident as they already pay for the sidewalk replacement. We may be able to find funding to participate in a trial program. Then we could see how it works and then make future decisions about using the product to protect our sidewalks. We can check with other communities to see if they have used this and if it is working. We may want to also want to do some research on Florida to see how they block bamboo roots.

**Asian Longhorn Beetle** – Can we do anything about this? B. Lathrop said they are experimenting with chemical injections. This link share information about the natural predator so we can investigate if this is an option. [http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/mbcn/fea606.html](http://www.entomology.wisc.edu/mbcn/fea606.html) It is important that we have figure out how to plan for this in the future. London Planetree, cross between an American Sycamore and Asian Planetree was what we planted at Jaycee Park for our Arbor Day planting, this may be an option for a tree that is resistant to the beetle.

**Berkley Tree Ambassadors** - B. Lathrop had an idea that maybe we could give the students who created the Library Tree Board Display some recognition. The class could be recognized. M. Grassa will check with M. Schneider to see if she has done anything. We could give them Arbor Day pencils and maybe go to the class and thank them as well.

**Other Business** – A. Turner said that the High School has an outdoor club, but it is not very active. A few years ago, the Tree Board have a garden club member from the high school. A. Turner said next year they may start an environmental club at the high school and he would like to be part of that. The national science foundation group at high school also planted a tree. A. Turner will keep us in the loop with these groups.

**REMEMBER** – Thanks M. Schneider for stepping up to help with taking meeting minutes, Bob appreciates your support. She did a great job with the April meeting minutes. Still looking for a member to step up as Chair for Margaret. Please considering doing this for a little while, we will still be on the Board to support you! We all think that T. Losey would be a great Chair!

Next meeting will be on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7 pm at the Berkley City Library

**Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

**2019 Meeting Schedule:**

June 10, 2019
July 8, 2019
August 12, 2019
September 9, 2019
October 14, 2019

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 Due to Veteran’s Day on Monday November 11, 2019
December 2019 – No Meeting – Holiday Parade