Berkley Tree Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 8, 2019  
7:00 p.m. – Berkley Public Library  


Absent: M. Grassa  

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.  

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2019 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.  

Review and Approval of Agenda – T. Losey presented agenda and members approved as proposed.  

Public Comments - Fai Foen, Berkley resident, attended meeting and participated in discussions.  

Grant Information - T. Losey reported that she has nothing to update on DTE Grant information. Awaiting response from DTE.  

Student Representatives: D. Hennen said the opening for a student rep was posted by the City on Facebook's City of Berkley page and shared online via Nextdoor.com. The person in charge of the high school newspaper and daily newsletter will be contacted to post the opening.  

Arbor Day Spring 2019 – Tale on the Trail takes place Thursday, April 25 at 6pm at Jaycee Park. Parks & Rec. and DPW are collaborating on the event. DPW will plant two trees approximately 2” caliper and will transplant two other trees to Jaycee Park from another location. D. Schueller asked if it would be possible for at least one board member to attend to photograph the event. D. Schueller thanked D. Hennen for the Arbor Day proclamation that was read at the city council meeting April 1, 2019.  

Library Display – M. Schneider completed the Arbor Day display with the help of Mrs. Sherry Riddle’s 3rd grade class from Angell Elementary. She visited the class and they wrote why they think trees are beneficial on paper leaves that were added to the display. The students were very engaged in the activity and one student asked if she could be part of the tree board. Photos were shared with the tree board members and D. Schueller of DPW.  

Root Barriers – D. Hennen is looking for ideas on how the city can help prevent sidewalk heaving from tree roots. This is something to consider as the City works on a sidewalk replacement plan. A possibility is to use some type of mechanical root barrier that is installed when a city tree is planted. D. Schueller is not opposed to having DPW install this with future plantings- things to look into are cost and effectiveness of different systems. Budgeting and costs need to be evaluated, as does the effectiveness of root barriers. F. Foen shared some additional info from MSU [HERE] and some research [HERE].
R. Penkala asked how deep do the barriers go? Depths vary, but about 2-3 feet seems common. T. Losey asked if silver maples are the main trees that cause problems. Do certain species need barriers more than others? F. Foen commented that oaks are known to have a deep tap root and are slow growing making them less likely to cause heaving. She is employed by the non-profit Greening of Detroit and has experience with tree planting programs. She also asked if the city will consider increasing options of shade and ornamental species. D. Schueller will touch base with the state forester.

**Asian Longhorned Beetle** – M. Schneider presented information from MSU’s extension service about the asian longhorned beetle. It has been found in Ohio and New York. Its favorite food is the maple tree. Last planting season, one-third of the species offered were a type of maple tree. If the beetle makes it to Michigan, this could decimate the maples. M. Schneider asked D. Schueller if DPW can ask the landscape supply company to offer a larger variety of trees. Group discussion about removing maples from the list, at least temporarily, might be an option so the city can avoid future problems like what happened with Dutch Elm disease and the emerald ash borer. The City of Ferndale and the City of Birmingham do not recommend maples based on recent documentation. Click to visit: Birmingham Tree Management Plan, and Ferndale Urban Forestry Program.

D. Schueller said he will ask Judd Hart to come to next month’s meeting. JD Hart does not do tree surveys. Will follow-up with Davey Tree service to get an idea of scope and cost.

**Tree City USA Growth Award:** D. Schueller shared that the Tree City USA growth award is something the tree board can work to achieve. They require new and different things to be accomplished in order to qualify for the award. D. Hennen had reviewed some of the ways to gain points to qualify, and based on some of the work done this year by the board, the city may be able to achieve the award. D. Schueller asked that we begin working on the application now so that it is ready to submit in December. Ten points must be earned. The new tree ordinance counts for 6 points, and a sidewalk policy is 5 points.

Next meeting will be on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 7 pm at the Berkley City Library

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**2019 Meeting Schedule:**

- May 13, 2019
- June 10, 2019
- July 8, 2018
- 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