Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 10, 2019
7:00 p.m. – Berkley Public Library


Absent: T. Losey

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

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2019 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

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

Public Comments - none

Grant Information - T. Losey was absent. D. Schueller shared that we cannot use federal monies for a matching grant, but the city budget may be amended to use city funds for a matching grant. The city can look into grants for next year. Most grants are for the cost of labor to plant, not the cost of the tree itself. R. Penkala asked how much builders are paying into the tree fund. D. Hennen will look into it. B. Lathrop asked about the tree trimming budget and if it will go up next year. K. Karlis asked where the money for the tree fund from builders is in the budget, D. Hennen did not know. L. Fristch said the money started being collected about 1 1/2 years ago.

D. Schueller said the free tree offer is now in effect for residents who have had a tree removed from their city easement. Resident needs to contact the city to determine location for new planting. R. Penkala suggested the city follow-up on this with affected residents.

Survey Information: K. Karlis shared that Berkley’s IT director gave her a list of all residential addresses in the city. She is adding the data from the 1998 tree survey to the list. About 7,000 lines in list. Could the new survey be done by trained residents and interested students? A. Turner will touch base with the environmental club at BHS this fall. B. Lathrop has an app that helps identify tree species. K. Karlis asked for some time to finish the data entry, and the board can work on a plan for the survey. A. Turner thought the Science National Honor Society students at BHS might be open to helping with this project.

Root Barriers/Sidewalk replacement- D. Hennen said the fiscal year begins July 1, 2019. and a pilot program plan is in the works for sidewalk replacement. Cost of physical root barriers is labor intensive which makes it expensive to get it done right. M. Schneider is willing to go over this year’s list of trees offered for planting to show what trees work best on different sized easements.
Asian Longhorned Beetle/Fall Tree planting list update: D. Schueller said over half of trees ordered this year was for maples. He is open to taking it off the list due to concerns about the Asian long-horned beetle (ALB) and its potential impact on Berkley’s tree canopy. Diversification is important to avoid problems like what happened with the emerald ash borer and Dutch-elm disease. D. Schueller said the city uses a nursery in Marine City for their trees and is overall satisfied with them. 10% loss of new trees planted in first year is expected, last year Berkley had 8% loss.

D. Hennen would like to know what is the expected likelihood of an ALB infestation in our area. Currently unknown. S. Sekora thought we could add more info about fall color to the brochure.

Parks & Rec plan for Merchant’s Park: M. Grassa wants to discuss increasing diversity of tree selections with Parks & Rec. for the park additions. Maybe the tree board can offer suggestions?

Addendum: D. Hennen announced that he is now chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals and when it meets, he may have leave the tree board meetings about 30 minutes early.

Next meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2019 at 7 pm at the Berkley City Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:59p.m.

2019 Meeting Schedule:
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

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