



**Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 4:00 pm
City Greenhouse**

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Cynthia Ball, Breann Hohman, Commissioner Greg Lockhart, John Parker, Joe Viviano, Commissioner Dave Waddington

Staff Present: Aaron Klein, Elisabeth Sowecke, Tom Speir, Melissa Vassallo

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

Approval of minutes from the March 27th meeting was tabled for the May meeting.

It was announced that Mr. Arthur planted 20 trees at Pipe Creek during the Pipe Creek clean-up event orchestrated by Erie Conservation District.

Mr. Speir is moving forward with many tree inspections as he juggles many different tasks during this busy time of year. Trees from Acorn Farm will arrive this week and there are plans for plantings at parks and other City properties.

Funding sources were briefly discussed and Mr. Klein confirmed that funding attendance at the Tree City USA awards ceremony came from the operations and maintenance budget for horticulture. Ms. Hohman expressed concern that previous donations meant to be accessible to the Tree Commission were deposited into the Green Fund and access for training and outreach were restricted.

Resident, Elaine Bostetter of 916 Ogontz Street attended the meeting to discuss issues with two Horse Chestnut trees, located in the tree lawn at 914 Ogontz Street. Mr. Speir inspected both trees and determined that the northernmost tree should be removed while the southernmost tree should be trimmed. Neither tree would be a top priority for the City because there are other trees currently posing a greater risk if not removed or trimmed. In this instance, the homeowner can have the tree removed at their expense. In addition, it was his recommendation that in the future this type of tree should not be planted in the boulevard because its foliage poses a tripping hazard.

Ms. Bostetter expressed concern that the southernmost tree is harboring termites and has attempted to contact John Feick, the property owner at 914 Ogontz, regarding removal of the tree but his stance is currently unknown. Commissioner Lockhart asked that Feick be contacted and his position established prior to moving forward. This issue was tabled for secondary examination and to seek Mr. Feick's consent. Tom recommended re-planting a crimson sunset maple. The

Commission voted unanimously in-favor of waiting to determine whether or not the tree should be removed.

The Commission questioned the status of trees to be removed by a contractor in 2018 and Mr. Klein indicated that the Department of Public Works are still in the process of determining trees and stumps to be removed. The permission to bid, including the list of trees to be removed, should be considered during the second meeting in May.

The Arbor Day Go Green event will be attended by representatives from Erie Metroparks and the City Recreation Department in addition to representatives from the Tree Commission and City Greenhouse. Jim Arthur collected goodies for the prize bags and will shop for food and Cynthia will be adding books and Toft's gift cards as well.

Mr. Klein discussed the possibility of applying to a GLRI grant through the US Forestry Department whereby the City would seek \$100k+ for planting of over 200 trees on City properties.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Melissa Vassallo
Clerk