



**Tuesday, May 22, 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: Tom Speir, Melissa Vassallo

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.

March 27th meeting minutes needed a couple of corrections and should be approved at the June meeting. April 24th meeting minutes were approved as is.

Old Business:

Members voiced their opinions regarding resident, Elaine Bostetter's plea to have, her neighbor, John Feick's tree at 914 Ogontz Street removed.

Per Tom Speir, Mr. Feick has no objections with the tree being removed. Jim's thoughts were it is best to remove the tree while forestry is already there removing the other tree which is at 916 Ogontz Street. Tom said though he believes the tree is healthy, he is ok with it being removed due to it is the wrong type of tree for that location. Breann said she doesn't want a healthy tree removed but agreed it is not in a good location. She decided with the removal as long as a new tree that is better suited for that location is planted in its place, in a reasonable amount of time. John and Cynthia also agreed on the removal of the tree with the assurance that a replacement tree will be planted. Tom let them know we are in a good position with being able to purchase trees right now so getting a replacement won't be a problem. Joe said this type of tree is a nuisance tree; it doesn't trim well and should be removed.

All members voted yes to remove the tree at 914 Ogontz Street due to the circumstances of this particular situation. Also, all members were in agreement to put this location on the replacement planting list. It was determined a letter will be sent by Melissa to Elaine Bostetter to let her know what decision was made. There was no specific timeframe of when the removal or planting will happen.

May tree stats sheets were handed out and reviewed. Members noticed maintenance dates were not updated and wondered why. In the future, they would like to make sure the forestry department is updating this regularly so they are able to see the progress of items being done.

New Business:

Thomas Cruse filed an appeal to not remove his tree at 616 Superior Street. The neighbor has complained about the tree and it is in the power lines. Tom's assessment of the tree determined it could be hazardous to electrical wires and to the neighbor's house at 603 Carroll Street. It was stated that there is a large rotten area at the base of the tree.

Tom said his initial assessment was done from outside of the property line due to Code Enforcement Officer, Earl, saying they could not go onto the property. Tom said according to Ordinance 917.17, he is able to go on the property and he is willing to go back to do a closer, more accurate assessment of the tree. He said the tree might be alive, as Mr. Cruse put on the appeal, but that does not mean the tree is steady and in good shape.

Breann pointed out that since there is now documentation regarding the tree and that it could be hazardous, if the resident does not do anything about it and damage is caused because of the tree, it would be considered negligence against the resident and he could be charged. Breann also, pointed out that though the tree may be rotten and need to be removed, the appeal is actually toward Code Enforcement, not the Tree Commission. All members agreed with Tom and his assessment for removal, but the decision would ultimately be Code's to make.

Members talked about the Tree City USA meeting that Jim Arthur, John Parker, Commission Dave Waddington, and Joe Viviano attended. Jim said it was fabulous and the food was good.

The next Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 4:00 pm at Dockside Café.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Melissa Vassallo
Clerk