



Tuesday, January 29, 2019, 4:00 pm
City Service Center

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Cynthia Ball, Breann Hohman, John Parker

Staff Present: Todd Gibson, Tom Speir, Melissa Vassallo

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm.

The November 27th meeting minutes were approved with no changes needed.

Old Business:

Tom Speir spoke about John Parker's request to remove and replace trees on Water Street between Columbus Avenue and Jackson Street. Tom expressed the challenge with those trees would be digging up the stumps. He said if or when it is done, it would be best if it is an in-house job. The trees that are there currently are not good trees for that location and they are messy. John added that due to the trees' messiness the public tracks the mess into the stores and shops in the area. Tom wondered if maybe a portion of the \$5,000.00 that was donated could be used for this project. Todd Gibson said he believes Ms. Allen, who donated the money, wanted it to be used in a neighborhood or neighborhoods. The subject was left at Todd would look into what funds are possibly available for these trees.

This subject rolled into Tom's next topic, the GLRI grant update. He showed the group the locations that he has marked on the GIS system for 290 trees. He said he was told to increase the number of tree from 270 to 290 in case there is enough money to do more. Then we will already have the location picked. Tom also informed everyone that he has all of the species selected for each area as well.

Jim Arthur let the members know of an additional area that was thought of that is in need of tree plantings. He said the Stahlwood and Karl-Ann Drive streets are completely bare and have no trees. The \$5,000.00 donation could be used there. Bre expressed her thought that they need to look for an area that has been overlooked. Tom said Huntington Avenue was another spot that had been missed. Bre said some areas that are in need of trees are very noticeable but the area of 42nd – 50th Streets, which had been talked about, is not as noticeable. There are still trees present. Todd told everyone that he was the one who initially suggested that area for the money. He explained that he looked at our GIS database and focused on what neighborhoods had been hit the hardest in the last

few years. Everyone understood the logic behind this. Todd let them know that nothing has been set in stone yet on where the donation money will be used. Tom said if we are wanting to do these plantings in the spring, a decision needs to be made soon in order to get the trees in time. Bre suggested we make a list of all the areas and streets we are coming up with so if and when there is more money available in the future, we already have the next locations in line. Bre said she would like her neighborhood added to the list but before that can happen, she feels it would be best to go door to door first, to ask her neighbors if they are interested in having a tree planted.

Jim told everyone that he received a quote from Balconi for the plaque for the Bicentennial Tree and it was around \$500.00, which is higher than they want. They talked about using a different type of material. Jim is going to continue to work on it.

Bre and Jim talked about the tree door hangers. They would like them to be done to use for the GLRI plantings. Bre is going to continue to work on them and Jim will help her. Melissa let them know they will need to get with McKenzie regarding font and color requirements and for approval once they are done with the product due to the new Branding Standards.

New Business:

Todd updated the group on the newest member of the Forestry Division. His name is Nathan (Nate) Leimeister. He let them know Nate used to be in the Sewer Maintenance Division but recently got hired to fill the Forestry vacancy. Nate has a lot of forestry/tree background. The crew right now consists of 3 guys, Scott Linkenbach, Eric Gildenmeister and now Nate Leimeister. Todd said right now their main focus is removals. This time of year, trimming is hard to do.

Members discussed attending the Urban Forestry conference in Kirkland on March 8th, 2019. Melissa is going to look into when the deadline is and get the members who want to go signed up. Members who said they want to attend were Cynthia, Tom and Jim.

Bre showed everyone what she has come up with for the annual forestry presentation that will be presented at a City Commission meeting. Melissa is to check with Kelly Kresser for her to add the presentation to the February 11th agenda. Bre let the group know a few things still need changed/added. She asked the members for help with some additional data and pictures.

The next Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 at 4:00 pm at the City Greenhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Melissa Vassallo
Clerk