



Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 4:00 pm
City Greenhouse

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Cynthia Ball, Commissioner Dave Waddington, John Parker, Joe Viviano

Staff Present: Todd Gibson, Nate Leimeister, Annette Solet, Tom Speir, Melissa Vassallo, Jason Werling

Resident Guests: Mike Zuilhof

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

The January 28, 2020 meeting minutes approved with no changes.

Old Business:

Cynthia Ball asked if there were any tree requests that need to be discussed. Todd Gibson, Nate Leimeister and Melissa Vassallo answered no. There are no requests at this time.

Nate gave the group the tree stats for January and February. The Forestry staff has removed 38 stumps and 28 trees. They have completed 70 limb-ups, eight (8) complete trims and 61 young tree trainings. Also during those months, 32 trees were inspected. No one had questions on this information. The members commented on the great job that the Forestry Division has been doing.

Tom Speir let everyone know that he, Jim Arthur and John Parker are registered to attend the North Coast Urban Forestry Conference. The conference will take place on March 6, 2020 in Kirkland, Ohio.

Jim asked if anyone knew the outcome of the Garfield Avenue tree appeal. Melissa said that it has not went to court that she knows of yet. In addition, that she thinks only Trevor Hayberger, the law director, will need to attend the hearing.

Cynthia spoke about the presentation that Breann Hohman is supposed to give at a Commission meeting. She said Bre had to cancel the March 9 date. Melissa gave Bre a list of the future Commission meeting dates and Bre is supposed let them know which date will work soon.

New Business:

Jason Werling and Annette Solet from the Recreation Department attended the meeting to talk about the upcoming Arbor Day event. Annette said they wanted to do a new contest this year instead of the

poem contest that they have done in previous years. They decided to have the kids do a poster contest. The contest will be for grades kindergarten through sixth. The theme of the poster is going to be "Trees are Terrific...in Every Shape and Size". She continued to say the drafting process has just begun and they wanted to get the Tree Commission members' thoughts on some of the details. The contest will be judged on items such as completeness, spelling (depending on age), followed instructions, etc. Jason and Annette asked opinions on the size of the poster and if the kids should have to say something about their poster. It was decided the size will be 11" x 17" and yes, they will need a brief description of their picture. Everyone also gave ideas on where and how the posters should be displayed. Todd suggested posting them on the City website; another suggestion was to hang them on a clothesline either at City Hall or at the Greenhouse. The deadline to turn in the posters will be Monday, April 13 and the judging was scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 11:00 am at the City Greenhouse. The Arbor Day event is on Saturday, April 25.

Jim asked if anyone had heard back from the person who wanted to plant the large number of trees at the Sloane House on Adams Street. Todd, Nate and Melissa said no. Melissa said she did mail a denial letter and there has been no contact since.

Tom asked Todd if he should use Green Fund to purchase the Arbor Day tree. Todd said yes. It was asked where the tree is going to be planted. Tom responded on Huron Avenue, where a previous tree had died.

Nate tells the group that in the past six (6) months while he has been out doing tree inspections, he has noticed bushes and trees within City boulevards that the City did not plant and that we do not have permits for. He had written down a few of the locations for examples. One of the locations was 824 Central Avenue. He spoke to the homeowner and he told Nate that he did not plant it and asked if he could relocate it to his backyard. Nate would like ideas from the Tree Commission of ways to prevent this from continuing to happen. He explains once these are planted, they are now the City's responsibility to maintain. He thinks education could be helpful. The members agreed. Todd said they could have Bre Hohman add that to her presentation that she will do at the Commission meeting. The group liked that idea.

The next Tree Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the City Greenhouse.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Melissa Vassallo
Clerk