



**Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting**

Members Present: Jim Arthur

Members via Teleconference: Bre Hohman, John Parker

Staff Present: Elisabeth Sowecke

Staff via Teleconference: Scott Kromer, Nate Leimeister

Approval of Minutes from the February 29, 2020 meeting was tabled until next meeting.

Old Business:

Nate gave the group the tree stats for the first half of 2020. The Forestry staff has removed 95 stumps and 123 trees. They have completed 122 limb-ups, 16 complete trims, 77 young tree trainings, 82 tree plantings and 1,122 trees were watered. Also during those months, 187 trees were inspected. Jim Arthur commented that Forestry has been busy.

The GLRI Strategic Planting is complete and resulted in the planting of 364 trees in various locations throughout the city.

New Business:

Services and Utilities Superintendent, Scott Kromer shared that Facilities & Properties Supervisor, Todd Gibson retired in April. Additionally, due to budget restraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a position in Forestry was eliminated and former Tree Commission Clerk, Melissa Vassallo was let go. Due to staff and budget reductions, Forestry will be prioritizing line of sight issues, hazardous trees and limbs, as well as watering young trees, and will continue to perform removals and trims whenever possible. Any tree in-need of attention can be reported to administrative assistant, Elisabeth Sowecke at 419.627.5829 or esowecke@ci.sandusky.oh.us and she will submit a work order in the GIS Workforce application. Forestry Foreman and Certified Arborist, Nate Leimeister will be managing all tree work, including inspections.

Jim Arthur expressed disappointment that ten Crimson Maples were planted at the new BGSU/Cedar Point building on the corner of Market and Hancock streets. He indicated that there are already seven

Crimson Maples planted on the block of Market between Hancock and Franklin and having all the same trees in one location can pose problems.

Bre Hohman inquired about the City's stance on the planting of memorial trees on City properties and indicated that family members of Jim Corso were told that memorial trees were no longer allowed by the City. It was unclear where the information originated and Scott Kromer will follow-up with Public Works Director, Aaron Klein and City Manager, Eric Wobser for more information.

Meeting times for the remainder of 2020 were discussed. It has been determined that the Tree Commission must hold at least four meetings per year to qualify as a Tree City. Members agreed to meet no more than two more times this year.

The next Tree Commission meetings will be held virtually on Thursday, September 24th and Thursday, November 19th at 4:00 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Elisabeth Sowecke
Clerk