



Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 4:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Due to COVID-19 Restrictions

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Bre Hohman, Kippie Loughlin, John Parker, Joe Viviano, Commissioner Dave Waddington

Staff Present: Aaron Klein, Scott Kromer, Nate Leimeister, Elisabeth Sowecke

Others Present: Andrea Davis, Commissioner Wes Poole

New Business:

Chairman Arthur started by sharing his thoughts regarding the request to remove the tree at 1113 Hollyrood. He stopped by and spoke with the property owner, Maxine McGee. He indicated that the City does not remove trees because they are messy. Ms. McGee's neighbor, Andrea Davis, attended the meeting virtually and indicated that she intended to pay Edward's Tree Service to have the tree removed due to the level of upkeep required and shared that she is currently attending to her husband, who has cancer, so she doesn't have time to care for the yards.

Chairman Arthur shared concerns that several trees have been removed from Hollyrood already. Certified Arborist, Nate Leimeister agreed that we don't typically remove trees due to complaints that they are messy. Mr. Parker agreed with previous opinions by Tree Commission and added that it's the responsibility of Tree Commission to promote growth of trees and Mr. Loughlin concurred. Ms. Hohman indicated that the sweetgum tree is not among the messiest and that the Tree Commission has never approved removal of a messy tree. She added that the city has decided not to plant certain trees, including sweet gums, due to complaints received in the past. Mr. Viviano acknowledged that the tree has a seed-bearing problem but that the problem exists for about a month per year. The Commission voted unanimously to reject the request to remove the tree.

Commissioner Poole requested permission to speak and expressed disappointment that the Tree Commission has acknowledged that some of the trees previously planted by the City were problematic while refusing requests for removal. He suggested that moving forward; the City and Tree Commission change the policy to grant approval of the removal requests as long as the property owner is willing to replace the tree with a more suitable species. He encouraged the Tree Commission to reexamine their policies in future meetings.

Chairman Arthur thanked him for his input and confirmed that the rejection of the request to remove the tree at 1113 Hollyrood would still stand.

Old Business:

Nate provided the tree stats to-date for 2021:

65 Removed
184 Stumps Removed
223 Limb-Up
30 Complete Trims
119 Young Tree Training
5 Deadwood Trim/Removal
198 Inspections
0 Plantings

Chairman Arthur discussed the Sloane House located on Adams and Franklin streets. The house is currently on the market and all were okay to table the topic until a later date.

Chairman Arthur also questioned who put a hibiscus pot in a City pot along Washington Row alongside Vita. Mr. Klein offered to speak with the owners of Vita to establish their plan for maintaining and caring for the plants and flowers in that pot.

Mr. Klein did share with the Tree Commission that Public Works reached out to property owners abutting the new multi-use pathway to see if there was any interest in having trees planted. The response was not ideal and the trees will need to be planted on private property so the City will only be able to plant trees where responses were favorable. Only seven trees on two properties will be planted. The City will continue to determine ways to enhance shade amenities on that portion of the pathway.

The meeting can be viewed in-full here: [\(9\) Tree Commission Meeting 05 25 2021 - YouTube](#).