



Agenda

Tuesday, September 22, 2021, 4:00 pm
Commission Chambers, City Hall

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Bre Hohman, Kippie Loughlin, Joe Viviano

Members Absent: Commissioner Dave Waddington

Residents Present: Chris and Roberta Wiedle

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

New Business:

Tree Removal Appeal for 403 E. Adams

Chris Weidle attended the meeting to appeal to the Tree Commission regarding the decision to move forward with removal of several trees planted in the right of way without authorization from a City certified arborist. Mr. Wiedle explained that he is a farmer who has planted hundreds of trees on his farmland. The trees planted at E. Adams came from his farm. He expressed understanding there is an issue with the species he selected. However, he felt the Golden Rain trees were perfect for the boulevard because they are a small tree with an open canopy and low maintenance.

Mr. Arthur indicated that there are two species present and expressed concern with propagation. Ms. Hohman indicated that the Tree Commission removed from Golden Rain tree from Downtown Master Plan list due to its invasive nature and expressed concern for the following reasons: 1) The trees were planted without permission; 2) The species is not recommended in a boulevard so the process to select proper trees was circumvented; 3) The density of the planting exceeds standards for urban forestry. Additionally, she indicated the importance of staying consistent and abiding by City ordinances and standards when appeals are presented to the board.

Mr. Wiedle expressed disappointment with the timeline he was provided by City staff when he requested that the City plant trees prior to planting on his own. Ms. Hohman and Mr. Kromer acknowledged that the City has made leaps and bounds in recent years to amend previous deficits.

Forestry Foreman expressed concern over potential height of trees planted below power lines. Forestry Superintendent agreed that it would have been ideal to have a conversation prior to the appeal. Both City staff members echoed Ms. Hohman's concerns.

Further discussion regarding tree species and trees best fit for urban forests.

All members present voted regarding the removal of the trees. All Board members voted unanimously to remove the trees. Mr. Kromer indicated that City Forestry would be happy to work with Mr. Wiedle to coordinate removal along with the planting.

Old Business:

Ms. Hohman inquired about the scheduled Fall planting and expressed appreciation. Mr. Kromer indicated that the City was able to allocate funds and species were discussed. Once the Fall planting is complete, there will only be about two dozen pending tree requests.

City Forestry staff welcomed a new member: Justin "Jay" McKillips.

Nate Leimeister provided the tree stats to-date for 2021:

- 129 Removed
- 247 Stumps Removed
- 414 Limb-Up
- 50 Complete Trims
- 133 Young Tree Training
- 9 Deadwood Trim/Removal
- 328 Inspections
- 44 Storm Clean-Up
- 200 Waterings
- 24 Plantings
- 89 To Be Removed
- 118 To Be Trimmed
- 83 Stumps for Removal

Members acknowledged the "amazing" work completed by City Forestry, as evidenced by the data.

The meeting can be viewed in-full here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hyq4uUqXdA>.