



Minutes of the
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013

Members Present: Joseph Lane, Vice-Chairman
Nancy Kroft
Gordon Matthews
Bal Rao

Also Present: Sue Mottl, Landscape Arborist
Jill Janson, Secretary

Absent: Moamar Mustafa, Chairman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lane called the meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 4:35 p.m. and the roll was taken.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. VISITOR

The visitor's contact information was obtained and he was sworn in by the Secretary. The visitor is Bob Brantsch, Chairman of the Landscaping Committee for the Highland Elementary School PTA.

Mr. Brantsch provided a brief summary of his Committee, their efforts at promoting educational opportunities and future plans for landscaping at the school. The Committee has obtained permission to remove the hedges along the walkway leading to the front door of the school and to replace three (3) dead Ash trees along the west side of the building. Ms. Mottl suggested a partnership between this Commission and the PTA Committee and Mr. Brantsch said he and the Committee would appreciate that. Ms. Janson said she would email her news contacts to Mr. Brantsch so that he could announce future improvements/events at the school. Ms. Mottl said she would send an email to Mr. Brantsch to include some tree species options to replace the Ash trees. Mr. Matthews spoke and explained that he worked for Davey Tree, as well as Dr. Rao, and that his company has donated a tree every year for the Arbor Day activities at the local schools. He offered to donate a tree to the Committee for this year as well! Mr. Brantsch thanked Mr. Matthews for that offer.

Mr. Brantsch said the Committee's desire is not to just plant a tree or trees but, they want to have a class sponsor a tree and install the appropriate commemorative plaque by the tree. He said they "really want to educate the kids about trees, their environment, community and their world. So that the person responsible for planting trees is not some PTA Board or some Board at City Hall but, it's them...it's their school. They want to include the children, the schools, school organizations and community people as much as possible".

Mr. Lane thanked him for coming and sharing this information and offered to assist Mr. Brantsch and the Committee with any future needs.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 1, 2013Motion:

Ms. Kroft moved and Mr. Rao seconded to approve the minutes for April 1, 2013 as submitted.

Yes Votes: Lane, Rao, Kroft, Matthews

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

V. REPORT FROM THE FORESTER

Ms. Mottl distributed and reviewed the Department Highlights (copy attached), with a discussion following.

V. OLD BUSINESSA. Arbor Day 2013

Ms. Mottl told the Commission that an Arbor Day tree planting event was held on Saturday, April 20th at 1:00 p.m. on the south lawn of City Hall. Mayor Drew read the Proclamation and assisted the crew in planting three (3) Green Mountain Sugar Maple trees. Two (2) residents also attended and assisted in the tree planting.

B. Project Clean Lake

Ms. Mottl said that the City received the award of this \$15,000 grant; which is the tree canopy assessment project. Ms. Mottl sent out a request for proposals to three (3) companies; two (2) of which responded with a proposal. After her review, she will recommend an award and will do a presentation to City Council. Although Council approved applying for the grant, Council approval is still needed to accept and implement the work on the grant. The City's share of the grant is \$15,000; \$5,000 of which will be in-kind labor. She believes there will be residual funds left to plant trees in the Kenneth-Samira area. All aspects of the grant must be completed by the end of 2013 and there is a lot of work that needs to be completed in order to meet that deadline; such as homeowner's meetings, etc.

C. Rain Barrel Art Project

Ms. Mottl said the artist, Gary Fetters, completed the art work on the barrel last Friday and it looks really good. She will apply the final two (2) coats of seal on the barrel and it will then be displayed at City Hall. This project will be advertised in the local news and the barrel auctioned off later this summer.

D. EAB Grant

Ms. Mottl reported that 49 Franks Junior Red Maple and 19 Black Gum trees were planted on Crown Pointe. On April 18th, Alan Siwert inspected and approved the plantings. All documentation has been submitted to Columbus in order to receive the grant reimbursement of \$14,000. Ms. Mottl said she is fairly confident that the remaining 482 Ash trees located along the street right-of-way areas in Stow are infested and will have to be removed within the next 5 years.

E. Commission's 50 Year Anniversary – June 27, 2013

The Secretary provided an update and distributed a CD to each member; which contains historical images of events held over the past 50 years. Invitations are being printed and will be mailed; which will include past members. Displays will be placed in the City Hall lobby in June and July. The reception at City Hall on Thursday, June 27th will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end with a Proclamation presented by the Mayor at the Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

F. Past Tree Removals/Stormwater Affects

Ms. Mottl reminded the Commission that, at the last meeting, Ms. Kroft asked if the data showing increased stormwater effects due to tree removals could be converted to a bar graph; however, when the information was graphed it did not make sense because the number of trees removed last year were about the same as the year before thus, it was not showing a significant change. Actually, there was a significant increase in stormwater between the two (2) years due to the removal of trees; however, it was because of the size of the trees and not just the number of trees. Once we can convert the data by DBH size, we will present it to the Commission for review and it will be updated annually.

Ms. Mottl reported that five (5) Butternut trees were planted on the Arndale Road side of the Ritchie Road retention basin last week. Additional trees are scheduled to be planted in the other designated areas beginning this Wednesday. The EPA visited the site last Wednesday to answer homeowner's questions.

G. Fall Bus Tour

Ms. Mottl is still reviewing plans for this tour. More information will follow.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. July Site Visit Location – A discussion was held concerning this summer's Commission meetings. It was decided that the Commission will meet at the Senior Center at 4:00 p.m. for a mid-July meeting, travel over to the Sancturetum for a tour and then return to the Center for a brief business meeting.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Report for March and April was reviewed and placed on file.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Tree City USA 2013 in Shaker Heights – Ms. Mottl said Tree City is May 14. Nancy Kroft, Bal Rao, Jill Janson, Sue Mottl, Craig Tracey and Mike Fletcher are registered to attend.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lane moved and Mr. Matthews seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Joseph Lane
Vice-Chairman

Jill Janson
Secretary