



Minutes of the
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Members Present: Nancy Kroft, Vice Chairperson
Joseph Lane
Bal Rao
Laura Root

Members Absent: Gordon Matthews, Chairperson

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Kroft called the meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. VISITOR RECOGNITION . No Visitors

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES . January 11, 2016

Motion: Mr. Rao moved and Mr. Lane seconded to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2016 meeting, as submitted. MOTION CARRIED.

VI. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS . Ms. Mottl presented the Department Highlights, followed by a brief discussion.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Showcase . Ms. Janson reported on a recent meeting with Premier Printing regarding plans for the Urban Forestry booth. Premier proposed an idea to create an interactive kids display with a tunnel. The tunnel would be surrounded by a tree with forest animals. Kids would choose a question, crawl through the tunnel, and win a candy bar prize for the correct answer. Since the Parks & Recreation Department will be in the lower level this year with themes for kids, we decided to forego this idea in order to concentrate on the banners. Ms. Janson will bring proofs or sketches of the banners to the next meeting. She described the banner themes and give-a-ways. The total cost for everything will be about \$1,500; and we currently have about \$3,500 in the Tree Trust. Ms. Mottl plans on bringing a laptop or tablet to use if people would like to look at the tree value calculator.

- B. Arbor Day . Ms. Mottl asked Ms. Root to share an update on her discussions with Julie Miller of Stow Munroe Falls Schools regarding a possible science project involving tree planting. Ms. Root said she has spoken to Julie several times and she is very interested in doing a project with this Commission or the City. Arbor Day is a perfect time to have a project like this with the kids. Ms. Root will send Julie's contact to both Ms. Mottl and Ms. Janson to follow up. Ms. Mottl expressed a desire to have a tree planting at Fishcreek School.

Bob Branch, Highland PTA, has invited Stow to join them in their Arbor Day event on May 6th at 6:00 p.m. We will purchase a tree out of our recycling funds for planting that day and ask the Mayor to read and present a proclamation.

- C. Tree City USA . Ms. Mottl announced that Tree City will be in Westlake, Ohio on May 10, 2016. The City will pay the registration cost for any member interested in attending. More information will be forthcoming.
- D. Davey Nursery Field Trip . Tabled until next meeting.
- E. 2016 Lake Erie Watershed Canopy Grant . Ms. Mottl reported that she has placed several orders with various nurseries for the trees. Some of the nurseries were not going to have 2+ caliper trees; therefore, we had to down-size to 1¾+ caliper. In-kind labor will be provided by our 2 man crew. The total cost came in approximately \$8,000 under the \$20,000 grant; therefore, she called Tyler Stevenson to ask if we could use the excess funds to purchase additional trees for other areas in the City; which he approved. She's planning to contact Larry Cedar at Kare Condos to see if they are interested in having some additional trees planted in right of way or common areas. It would be nice to have additional trees on Nantucket, Bayside and Sowel Blvd.
- F. Stow Sentry News Release-Paper Recycling . At the request of Bal Rao at last month's meeting, Ms. Mottl obtained information from River Valley Paper Recycling on savings the City has realized since the inception of the Program. She reported on the information and said she would have Ms. Janson type and submit it for publication in the Stow Sentry.
- G. 2016 New Events . Ms. Mottl reported that a letter went to the Mayor requesting permission to have the new Forestry truck entered in the July 4th Parade and the Touch-A-Truck event at the Library. The Touch-A-Truck event has been cancelled this year because the Library is repaving their parking lot and the request for the truck to be entered in July 4th Parade is still being considered by the Administration. The status of this decision and possible participation in Summer Sunset Blast will be included on the next agenda.

Ms. Janson distributed the full list of New Events that the Commission had developed at their August, 2015 meeting. The Secretary will include this list on a future agenda for consideration for 2017. A brief discussion was also held regarding letters to businesses soliciting contributions and using high school volunteers.

VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

- A. The report for December, 2015 was reviewed and placed on file.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Community Management Plan . After discussion, Mr. Lane asked that this matter be tabled and that the current Plan be emailed to all members prior to the next meeting.
- B. 2016 Meeting Schedule . Ms. Janson distributed the updated schedule and noted that the meetings will be held at City Hall in the 2nd Floor Conference Room (War Room).

X. NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 7, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of Stow City Hall.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lane moved and Ms. Root seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Ms. Nancy Kroft
Vice Chairperson

Jill A. Janson
Secretary