

## TREE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**Date and Time:** February 12, 2015, 6:30 PM  
**Location:** One Renaissance Center-345 High Street  
First Floor-City Council Chambers

### **I. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Doris Bergen, Dan Gladish, Alfred Hall, Carrie Pate

**Members Absent:** Armand Bloch , Carol Christian, Ann Coombs, Buck Huber,  
Chelsea Obrebski

**Other Attendees:** Jack Moser, Andy Weltzer, Joel Fink

### **II. Board Minutes**

The minutes of the January meeting could not be approved because of a lack of a quorum.

### **III. Update from Mark Murray (provided in written form)**

Mark reported that the Arbor Day proclamation has been submitted to the City Clerk.

The Tree City USA luncheon will be held in the City of Wyoming on April 17. Carrie and Andy expressed an interest in attending. Doris will check with other board members to determine if they wish to attend.

Doris, Carrie, and Mark met to review the Tree Management Plan. The intent is to develop a document that accurately reflects what will be accomplished and does not include activities that are unlikely to be undertaken. To that end, Mark will arrange for a meeting with Rich Engle, Craig Koger, and Steve Timmer. Carrie and Dan indicated they would attend the meeting. Other board members who wish to attend should contact Mark. The meeting is likely to be scheduled in the late afternoon.

At the request of the Fitton Center and in order to accommodate a new sign that is being planned, it has been agreed that two trees will be removed and at least four trees will be planted. Carrie and Andy have provided some suggestions concerning the species and the locations for the new trees. Andy expressed a concern about one of the oaks that has been identified for removal. He said that a healthy tree is being removed and a less than healthy one is being preserved. He has shared this opinion with Mark and will find out if any change has been made in the plan.

Mark reminded the board of the importance of documenting volunteer time so that the Tree City application can include the dollar value of this time. He provided the form and asked that they be submitted as the volunteer time contributed can count toward the financial obligation for Tree City status.

#### **IV. Report from Steve Timmer, Director of the Parks Conservancy**

Steve reported that City Council has now officially approved the creation of the Conservancy. A five-year contract has been signed. The organization is now incorporated. The 501(c) (3) tax status has not yet been granted, but the application has been submitted to the IRS. In the interim the Hamilton Community Foundation is serving as fiscal agent.

The goal of the organization is to better maintain and to improve the city parks and to increase the use of the parks by members of the community.

The Conservancy has as its budget the funds that the city formerly spent on parks. It also can receive donations. The Conservancy has a six-member board of directors. Steve must obtain approval from this board for any expenditure that exceeds \$5,000.

Dead and hazardous tree removal has been an early priority. Steve reported that 172 trees have been removed from various parks that include Millikin Woods, Crawford Woods, Joyce Park, the north end, and Grismer Park. He stated that \$64,500 was spent on this tree removal project thus far. Another priority is the planting of new trees that are large enough to last a long time and that will withstand deer, vandalism, and other problems. Steve is working with ODNR on a deer management plan. A third project is the rebuilding of dilapidated shelters and bathrooms in the parks.

Steve is hoping to create a collaboration that includes the Conservancy, Butler County Metro Parks, the City of Fairfield, and the Butler County Visitors' Bureau.

Steve was asked about the plans for Rivers Edge given the donation that the city recently received. He said that only general plans have thus far been developed. Board members expressed a desire to be consulted on the tree species that are planted.

Board members also indicated that they hope to collaborate with the Conservancy on the development of the Tree Management Plan and on other tree-related projects. They appreciated receiving this report from Steve (who is also a former Tree Board member). The Tree Board intends to continue to stay in close communication with him related to tree issues and members support his initiatives in his new role.

#### **V. Tree Academy**

Doris will communicate with Ann and Buck concerning the food and other arrangements that must be made for the second year of the Tree Academy that is being hosted in Hamilton. The sessions are scheduled for March 23 and 24. Carrie agreed to help as needed.

**VI. Tree Request**

The Green Team at Ridgeway Elementary has requested that a tree be planted there for Arbor Day. Doris will ask Carol if any Tree Lab funds remain for this purpose. Since their Arbor Day tree last year was donated by a parent, the Board may provide funds if there are none in the Tree Lab account.

**VII. Planning Commission Update**

No report was available.

**VIII. Public Education**

Alfred is planning to add information to the Tree Board's Facebook page.

Chelsea and Dan will be making a presentation at the Lane Library concerning the appropriate ways to plant and care for young trees. They also will talk about issues related to invasive plants.

**X. Other Business**

Trees were removed from an area around the Courtyard by Marriott. There is a question about when/whether new trees will be planted. Dan asked whether permission for the removal was obtained and said that private businesses should be encouraged to follow ordinance procedures as are residents.

**XI. Motion to Adjourn**

Doris declared the meeting adjourned because a vote could not be taken because of the lack of a quorum.

The next meeting of the Hamilton Tree Advisory Board will be **on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 6:30 PM.**