

TREE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Date and Time: August 13, 2015, 6:30 PM
Location: One Renaissance Center-345 High Street
First Floor-City Council Chambers

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Doris Bergen, , Carol Christian, Ann Coombs,
Dan Gladish, Alfred Hall, Chelsea Obrebski

Members Absent: Armand Bloch, Buck Huber, Carrie Pate

Other Attendees: Brian Grubb, Jack Moser, Mark Murray, Joel Fink

II. Board Minutes

The minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Moved: Carol Christian

Seconded: Dan Gladish

Motion passed.

III. Report from Mark Murray

New appointees to the Tree Advisory Board are Emily Fuhrmann and Louise Jewett. Buck Huber's membership has been renewed. Larry Fiehrer, who also applied, will be contacted and will be told that his application will be held until next year when there will be new openings.

The board's proposed management plan has had its first reading by council. Dan, Ann, and Mark attended the meeting and were recognized by council members. No questions have yet been raised about the contents.

IV. Tree Nursery Update

Jack has planted 56 trees this year and has plans to plant 10-15 more this fall. The board's decision to include a flyer in the utility bill seems to have generated much interest on the part of residents. Board members thanked Jack for his hard work in planting trees.

Jack, Dan, Brian Grubb, and Joel were asked to meet to discuss the trees that will be ordered for the nursery to replace those that were planted from the nursery.

V. Tree Lab Update

Even though Carol will be leaving the board, she will continue to work on the Tree Lab project. She said that money still is available in the school budgets as new plantings are warranted and needed. Work also will be done on the creation of species guides that can be used for tree identification.

Doris invited Carol to attend future board meetings to report on the progress of this important project.

VI. Arboretum Update

Carrie has sprayed around the arboretum trees in preparation for the installation of posts and identification signs. When a tree species cannot be identified, the sign, as an example, will read “Oak hybrid.”

Doris and Joel will mark the exact locations for the posts and Doris will inform Steve Timmer that post holes can be dug and posts installed. A vendor for the identification signs has been contacted. The design of the signs will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

VII. Tree Removal

A discussion related to hazardous trees resulted in the board understanding that trees or tree stumps identified as hazardous will be reported to Public Works and to the City Manager. The city will arrange for these trees to be removed.

Consistent with the ordinance, street trees and stumps that are not hazardous must be cut and ground down at the expense of the owner of the property. These trees and stumps should be reported to the city designee, who will cite the owner. The board is hoping that more of these will be reported so that the unsightly stumps and dead trees will be removed.

VIII. Other Business

The board decided to wait until next spring for another tree nomination contest. Carol suggested that the program might be undertaken as part of the city’s “17 Strong” initiative.

Alfred suggested that Jacob Stone be contacted for assistance with the Tree Board’s Facebook page. Ann will be assuming responsibility for this page. He reminded the board that the amount of activity on the page is what determines whether people check it regularly.

Doris suggested that at some time in the future, a meeting with the city manager should be requested to talk about tree-related matters.

The remaining board members thanked Carol and Alfred for their service.

IX. Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Carol Christian
Seconded: Ann Coombs
Motion passed.

The next meeting of the Hamilton Tree Advisory Board will be **on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:30 PM.**