Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 10, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Berkley Public Library

Present: M. Grassa, R. Penkala, B. Lathrop, M. Schneider, T. Losey, K. Karlis, D. Hennen, S. Sekora, A. Turner, D. Schueller

Absent:, K. Wilt

Member of the public: Steve, 20 yr. resident

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2019 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda – M. Grassa presented agenda and members approved as proposed.

Public Comments- None.

Update from DPW director, D. Schueller: The state has approved the Tree City USA application, now sending to the national office. The director of the MI Arbor Day Alliance contacted DPW to see if they will collaborate with the Berkley MSU Credit Union for a tree planting event. They will get volunteers to assist. The board thinks this is a good idea. D. Schueller will reach out to them and talk to city hall to discuss details.

City master plan- T. Losey: T. Losey said the first steering committee meeting was this month. There was a discussion on what type of survey to do: open or statistically significant.

Grant information- T. Losey: Board discussed how a grant may be used for a tree inventory and what are the costs vs. benefits. K. Karlis said it will give good data to show how many trees have been lost and species left. Is this data useful for DPW. D. Schueller says yes. M. Grassa says trees add value to the city. Steve asked if the tree value would be added to the city asset balance sheet? K. Karlis also mentioned that trees help with stormwater management. D. Hennen asked if we can create a list of benefits, species distribution/gaps and asked if this info can help with future budgeting for the forester. D. Schueller thinks it would be useful.

City Tree Inventory update- K.Karlis: K. Karlis had a conference call with M. Baumgarten, D. Schueller, and Asia at MSU to discuss having graduate students work to do a tree inventory with volunteers from our community. Can be scaled to size based on number of volunteers. Would happen mid-July through mid-August. The final product would be a tree identification guide for the city. Berkley would be a pilot program and hopefully this would be the start of an ongoing relationship MSU. Costs to consider: iPads needed for data collection. K. Karlis will contact the city of Ann Arbor to ask about their experience with a tree inventory and the benefits.

Cost would be about $26,000 total for inventory, uploaded to GIS. Grant application requesting $8-10,000 must be submitted September 2020, if awarded to use October 2020-Sept 2021. Tree board asked D. Schueller to request for the budget $14,000 for 2020/2021 and $10,000 for 2021/2022, contingent on the grant to be used for the costs of a tree inventory.

Oakland County Bicentennial: 2 yr. old oak seedlings, about 18" tall are being offered by the county. https://www.oakgov.com/bicentennial/Pages/default.aspx

Arbor Day 2020: April 24 this year. Next meeting will discuss ideas for this year's event. Discussed replacing the tribute tree Maybelle Fraser had planted by the fire station that had to be removed due to the building expansion. D. Schueller will touch base with the police chief to see if there is an area where a new tree could be planted.

Historical Committee: M. Schneider shared that the historical committee has extended an open invitation to visit. They have some maps and information documenting the trees that existed in the early 1900's that might be interesting to the work of the tree board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

2020 Meeting Schedule:

Monday, March 9, 2020	Monday, July 13, 2020
Monday, April 13, 2020	Monday, August 10, 2020
Monday, May 11, 2020	Monday, September 14, 2020
Monday, June 8, 2020	Monday, October 12, 2020