

**Berkley Tree Board
September 14, 2030
Zoom Meeting - 7 pm**

In Attendance: Lisa Fritsch, Bob Penkala, Derrick Schueller, Bob Lathrop, Tricia Losey, Margaret Grassa, Kathy Karlis, Sandy Sekora

Stephen Bard is a guest, he attended just to see what we are doing and may be a member in the future. He is on Beautification Committee.

Call to Order - Introductions

Meeting called to order by Margaret Grassa at 7:05 pm

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved as written adding the need for Selection of a new Tree Board Chair to the end of the agenda. Margaret is resigning today.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

A few changes were sent to Molly earlier and the members have no other changes.

Update from DPW - Derrick Schueller

Sidewalk Program - starting in section 5 this fall. The sidewalks that have 2 inches or more of faulting will be first to be addressed. There are legal requirements of this program and this will be the starting point. City trees have lifted sidewalks and homeowners are not happy they have to replace the sidewalk. We need both trees and safe sidewalks. There will be no sidewalk work next to a tree that is dead. Some had to be removed in advance of this program. D. Hennen wants to work towards having city pay for sidewalks that have been damaged by tree roots. L. Fritsch shared that deep root watering is important early in the life of the tree do roots grow down not out & up. Encourage shallower root plantings in the greenbelt. Residents are frustrated because money is tight, and they still must have this work done. In the future we may want to have a general meeting prior to the project start.

Fall Tree Planting Program

130 written requests. About 15 of 130 have conflicts. DPW has spoken to residents. Another 15 will need minor modifications to plant. Right near where we have been in the past for new plantings. They were all free on greenbelt this year. If they cannot get a tree this year they will go to top of list for next year. They want to continue this same program in future. They will diversify what is planted and the city will decide what kind of tree gets planted where. Next year's budget will allow for as many and maybe a few more than this year. D. Hennen suggested maybe double the budget for next year. Most cost-effective way to solve storm water problem. M. Grassa asked about planting in Public Parks, not many that he knows of. L. Fritsch had a call from a resident who has a topped tree on the greenbelt. She wants to remove and have a new tree planted. D. Schueller asked the resident to call or email DPW to discuss and make plans.

Update City Budget Changes - Dennis Hennen

January is a good time to give D. Schueller an amount for the grant support funding needed. We must work on this to see if it can get into future year budgets.

Grant Information - Tricia Losey

K. Karlis attended the webinar on potential grants. Davey Group and Re-Leaf held the webinar. Nothing new on the list. Deadlines just passed or are quickly approaching. All grants require cost sharing. T. Losey will review this material. The information from the webinar will be sent to the Board once K. Karlis receives. The trees in the new park design were removed due to budget overrun as shared by D. Hennen. This may be another grant project, along with our Tree Inventory and Tree Planting Program.

City Tree Inventory - Kathy Karlis

The Tree Inventory is on hold due to COVID. We must wait until next year and request all the funds needed. We will go back to this next year but if we could get the Council to fund the entire amount for 2021-22. T. Losey asked about what In-kind means in the budget. These include volunteer hours, equipment, supplies. We must set a plan. K. Karlis has continued to work with Asia at MSU but she is a little on hold unit we move through the pandemic.

Memorial Trees - Bob Penkala

R. Penkala shared options for memorial tree markers. The Board Members thought these were good options. Once they receive the document sent to M. Grassa the Tree Board Members will review and decisions will be made about what to select for future options when planting a memorial tree.

New Items

Election of a new Chair - M. Grassa resigned as Chair and K. Karlis will accept the position. Thank you, Kathy! Thank you, Margaret, for all your years of service to the Board and the City. She has been on the Board 25 years and Chair for 10 years. You will be missed as the Chair and we hope you stay an active member of the Board.

The Redinal Costume has been found and is ready for the next parade! Yeah

L. Fritsch asked when people will hear if they have been selected for a City Board or Committee now that we have had a big push to promote new membership. Jim Fritsch has applied 3 positions and he has not heard anything. D. Hennen will talk to the Council to keep this moving for all positions.

JC Park Compost is pretty much gone now for the rest of the year. The Bacon location may still have some. S. Sekora mentioned how nice it was to have compost in many locations across the City.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Next Meeting is November 9, 2020