

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, Feb. 28, 2022**

Present: D. Hennen, D. Schueller, K. Karlis, B. Penkala, L. Fritsch, T. Losey, B. Lathrop, M. Leneway, S. Bard

Absent: A. Sitarek, M Grassa

Additional visitors: Karen Copus

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

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – Nov, 8, 2021 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda – Kathy Karlis presented agenda and members approved as proposed.

Public Comments – none (Karen is from Lathrup Village and attended to observe the meeting)

Update from DPW - Derrick Schueller

- # Trees planted / # Trees removed in 2021: The number of trees planted in 2021 was 222 and the number of trees removed was 127. This information is also required and was reported in the Arbor Day Tree City USA application.
- Sidewalk Program – Derrick has received an estimate to tryout porous pavement in a two or three tree wells along Coolidge to see how the trees respond.

In the residential areas, all trees removed by J.D. Hart for the sidewalk project were also reviewed by a second independent arborist, Dana Stevens. Thus far, there have been no conflicts but that is not to say that in the future there may be differing opinions.

Tricia asked if trees were removed due to the health of the tree or if some were removed for outgrowing the space that they were planted in. Derrick acknowledged that both reasons could have been used to determine that a tree needed removal. Most of these were silver maples. Half moons were used in some areas to accommodate tree growth, but this also increased the cost of the pavement. To Derrick's knowledge where this was recommended, he is not aware of any residents who challenged this. Tricia asked if Derrick could let us know how many of the trees were removed due to outgrowing their space and Derrick said he can provide.

In 2022, the Sidewalk Program will commence in the Section 3 of the city (the section north of 12 Mile between Coolidge and Greenfield). The engineering evaluation has been done and will establish the workplan for the Fall. The last section will be done in 2023 - Section 1 in the southwest corner of the city (between Catalpa and 11 Mile and between Woodward and Coolidge) and that will complete this cycle. Dennis Hennen is working with Council member Gavin to determine how to fund the Sidewalk Program for future cycles. Also, the city is looking to make the program more ongoing than every fifteen years, which will reduce the work load and cost on an annual basis.

- **Update on tree preservation for Cornwall / Kenmore road reconstruction project:**

Bob Lathrop asked how the City is treating the removal of trees in the St. John Woods area. Derrick responded that there will be no difference in how the sidewalk program is implemented in St. John Woods neighborhood as part of Phase 3 of the sidewalk program.

However, Kenmore / Cornwall is different because this is part of the road construction project. An engineering study is being done for these streets. Trees in those sections have also been evaluated by both arborists. To maintain the character, they will save as many trees as possible and are also looking at narrowing the road width which will allow the easement space to expand, which also helps the trees. But the final width of the streets is yet to be determined – they are trying to balance road width with saving trees, providing fire lanes with no parking on one side, and maintaining the character of the neighborhood.

Per Dennis, they have identified five trees that need to be removed, four due to health, one due to construction. But Derrick says that number could change if they decide to increase the road width to 23 ft. versus the 21 ft. width first studied.

Lisa and Tricia discussed a webinar that they attended regarding a ten year study in Italy for using porous permeable surfaces. This study found that the quality of the soil was more important than the porous pavement and species of trees was key. The trial on Coolidge should give us some feedback on whether or not this is a good idea for this sidewalk area and for these street trees (mainly Honey Locust).

- **Annual Arbor Day Tree City USA application:** Derrick submitted that the Arbor Day Tree City USA application in December and the City of Berkley was once again approved. How we will celebrate Arbor Day this year will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- **Also discussed was that J. D. Hart's contract was renewed for another 3 years.** Derrick added that J D Hart is not only the most affordable option but that Judd has also been very involved and responsive.

Oxford Park Update – Kathy shared the small article in the Dec. 22, 2021 *Woodward Talk* "... and the planting of 10 new trees" and also shared a layout of the park that depicts each tree's location and species.

Vision / Accomplishments / 2022 Focus – Kathy reviewed the Tree Board Vision, Duties, and 2021 Accomplishments (see attached).

The Tree Board then discussed ongoing topics and additional topics for focus for 2022.

- **Ongoing:** City Street Tree Program, Tree City USA, Information sharing regarding pests, tree disease, or invasive tree species, City Tree Ordinance (proposed changes, concerns, new builds, enforcement, etc.), and Communications.
- **Arbor Day 2022 is April 29, 2022.** Derrick will prepare the declaration for the City to observe "Arbor Week" and present to the City Council at the April 18th meeting. Next month we will discuss in more detail what activities will have on that day.
- **Invasive Tree Species / City Tree Ordinance**–The city ordinance may need to updated to require removal of invasive tree species on the Michigan invasive lists. Besides Tree of Heaven and Black Locust, Mike said we should also include shrubs on the State's invasive

list that are considered small tree species- currently this list includes the Common Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn. Mike is also now a member of CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) so he should be able to provide us with more information on this topic in a future meeting.

Dennis said that the recent Federal Court Ruling against the Canton Township Tree Protection Ordinance is still working through the courts. Potentially this could also impact our tree ordinance but we have to wait to see.

Regarding the Prohibitive Tree List as we discussed in our November meeting, Dennis is putting together a proposal for rewording the city ordinance to be discussed at our March meeting. Mike said the State probably does not have the resources to directly inspect or pay for removal of invasive tree species throughout the city but concurred with Dennis that there is probably some language to enforce where necessary. Dennis will investigate and will likely propose rewording the Berkley ordinance to mirror the State requirements. Mike will also investigate the County requirements and provide that feedback to Dennis.

- **Tribute Trees** - The Tree Board plans to complete the Tribute Tree process (converting the spreadsheet into google document, purchasing and installing markers where missing, finalizing marker recommendations). Additionally, the Tree Board agreed we should pursue developing an informational brochure for communicating this program to residents. Once completed, this can be communicated via the Tree Board Facebook site and posted to the City website.

As we finalize this process, Bob L. asked about the certificate and if the location of the tree is included. Derrick said that this information is included on the current certificates and added that including a picture might also be helpful.

The Tribute Tree Process and details will be discussed in a future meeting.

Tree Canopy vs. Street Tree Inventory – Based on cost / benefit it was discussed that a Tree Canopy study might be of more benefit in order to strategically plan and promote tree canopy expansion. Tricia explained that while a tree inventory looks at each city street tree to identify its information (location, tree caliper size, species and health), the tree canopy study may use LIDAR technology, from a top-down perspective (Planet GEO is one company that does this), and the tree canopy study can provide information on both public and private trees. Derrick agreed to add \$5,000 to his budget as a place holder and will solicit / bid cost to determine if this is in the ballpark.

From an asset management perspective, Dennis asked Derrick if we were keeping track of the new trees being planted. Derrick said that the City is documenting where the new trees are being planted. He also agreed to provide a list to the Board regarding the species for the 222 new street trees planted in 2021.

Grants – If Tree Canopy study looks feasible, we will apply this year for matching funds from the DNR Community Forestry Grant (application is due in September). And then if we get the necessary funding, proceed next Spring with the tree canopy study.

Tricia thinks we may be able to apply for the DTE grant each year. Derrick says he has not yet received any information on whether the OAKSTEM grant will be available again this year. Derrick also added that the DTE and OAKSTEM grant money approved last year will

be used for the Spring street tree planting. So while we got the approvals last year, we have not yet gotten into the details to know if there will be any difficulties with reporting or receiving the funds. Derrick thinks it will be good to understand how all of this unfolds (warranties, administrative time required, etc.) so we can measure the worth of these programs before we decide to pursue again. So we will probably not pursue applying for these grants this year, but potentially next year.

- **Budget** – The budget was due today (Feb. 28), and Derrick will now be meeting with Matt as for budget process discussions. Derrick said that once again his initial budget request is to receive enough funds to plant 200 city street trees. And, Dennis added that Council will likely support this budget request.
- **Holiday Parade** - In the Fall, we will discuss the Holiday Parade and what we might do to step up our participation.

Discuss meeting frequency and schedule for 2022 – Meeting frequency was discussed. It was agreed that we should plan to meet monthly except for the months of June, July, August and December.

Briefly discussed potential conflicts for some members with the 4th Monday timing and if the time of the meeting could be moved to earlier time like 6 p.m. But Dennis explained that the City standardized the Board meeting times so that all the Board meeting begin at the same time - at 7 p.m. After discussion, it was decided to continue this year to meet on the 4th Mondays at 7 p.m.

Open Position – Sandy Sekora position is still open. The City closed the nomination process last Friday. Dennis said we have received applications from five candidates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled March 28, 2022. Bob P. offered to record the minutes at the March meeting, and Lisa offered to record the minutes for the April meeting.

Oxford Park Update – Woodward Talk, December 22 2021:
 “...improvements include new playground equipment and
 the planting of 10 new trees ... “

Woodward Talk's
NEWS & NOTES
 COMPILED BY MIKE KOURY AND SARAH WOJCIK

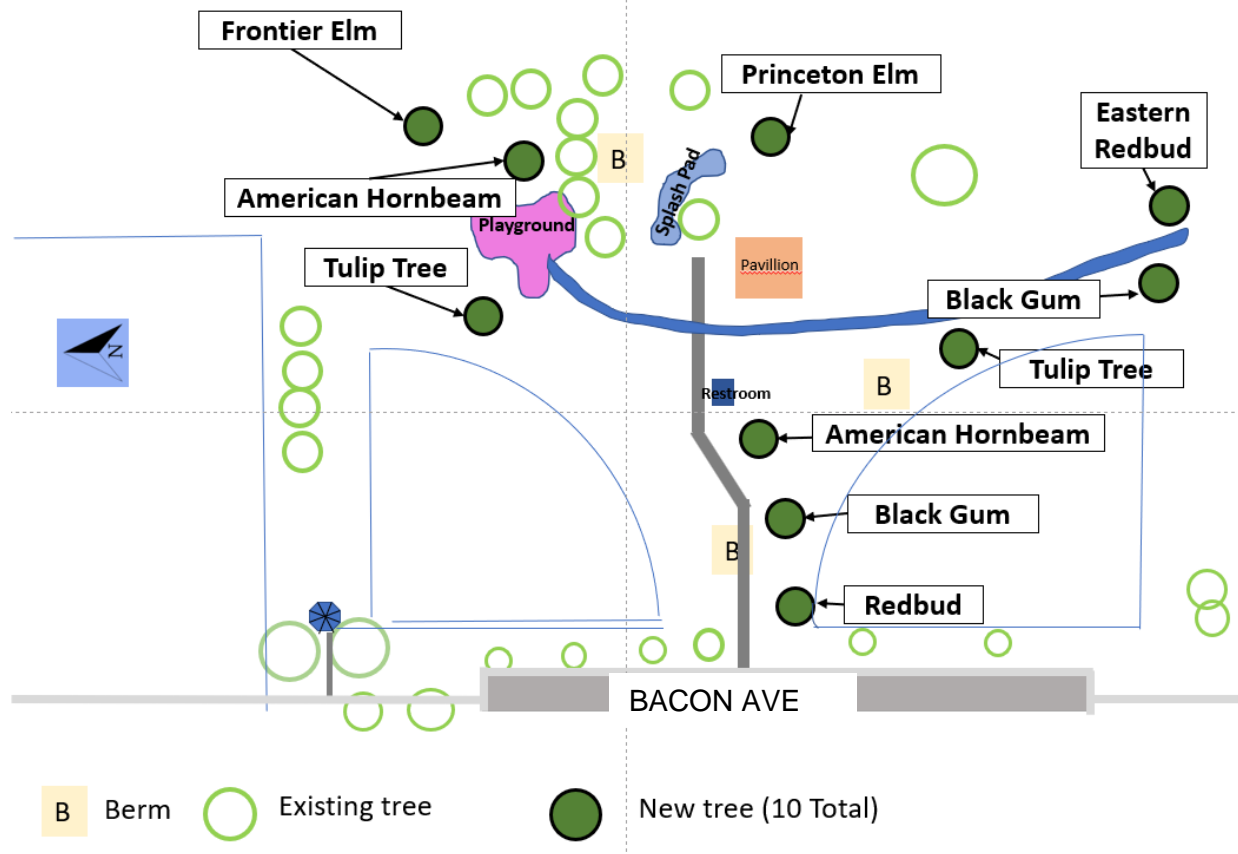
UPDATES BEGIN AT OXFORD PARK



Photos provided by Berkeley Parks and Recreation



BERKLEY – In December, one Berkeley park began receiving a bit of a makeover. Earlier this month, the city of Berkeley began making updates to Oxford Park. The improvements include new playground equipment and the planting of 10 new trees. Oxford Park held a grand opening in June after years of development. The park unveiled both its new name and its long-awaited splash pad.



Tree Board Vision

The Tree Board will advocate to preserve and expand the City's tree canopy and to promote tree diversification by engaging the City government and community with education, collaborative conversations, and execution of events and programs.

Duties (i.e., How will the Tree Board reach the vision?)

[From Workshop conducted August 2021]

- Serve as a focus group for brainstorming and reviewing policies and projects relating to the City's urban tree canopy.
- Plan and execute events that educate and advocate for the preservation and expansion of the city's urban tree canopy
- Assist the City Council and City administration in the implementation of various programs and by engaging with the community

2021 Accomplishments

- City of Berkley received the Tree City USA Award for 31st consecutive year
- 222 new street trees planted
- Tree Board volunteers conducted a tree inventory for Oxford Park and the Tree Board provided Parks and Recreation with a proposal for tree species to be planted along walkways in the park. Ten new trees were planted in Oxford Park in November
- DTE Foundation Tree Planting Grant awarded to City of Berkley \$4000 to plant additional street trees
- OAKSTEM Grant awarded to City of Berkley \$13,155 for Fall/Spring street tree planting to order to improve tree canopy benefits and to reduce storm water runoff
- Tribute Trees inventoried – Locations surveyed, database created to identify tree species, locations, markings and donors