

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 12, 2021**

Present: D. Schueller, K. Karlis, L. Fritsch, T. Losey, B. Lathrop, S. Sekora, S. Bard

Absent: M. Leneway, M. Grassa, D. Hennen, K. Criscenti

Additional visitors: Michael Fritsch

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Welcome New Members – Steve Bard,

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2021, meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

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

Public Comments- none

Oxford Park Tree Update & Recommendation –

K. Karlis reported Margaret, Lisa, Sandy, Mike and Kathy met May 15 at Oxford Park to identify and inventory the existing trees. They identified 26 living trees and identified one dead tree. The Oxford Park subcommittee (Tricia, Dennis, Bob P., Mike, and Kathy) then met via Zoom to review this input and to develop a recommendation for the ten (10) new trees to be planted in the park. K. Karlis presented recommendations. Presentation contains 2021 list of available trees and trees that would not be recommended. See Berkley Tree Board Oxford Park Recommendation 2021-07-12.pdf presentation for additional details, for example, list of trees currently in the park. Proposed trees and locations are recommended to shade pathways and allow for open space play areas. D. Schueller mentioned that the northwest corner of the area will have three new homes built. K. Karlis said a variety of trees are recommended, tall trees, trees of interest, hardy trees. D. Schueller mentioned that placement of the trees will need to avoid the water main, which runs across the entire park, north and south. The group approved the proposal.

Update from DPW:

- **Tree Planting Program** – D. Schueller said that the distribution of flyers was successful with 372 requests as of 7/12/2021 which exceeds the 200 trees that have been budgeted for the 2021 Tree Planting Program. Residents who submitted requests first, will be first in line to get trees. 172 others will be first in line to get a tree next year. S. Bard mentioned the Beautification Committee would like to ask Dennis and City Council if next year's budget (or portion of) could be moved forward into the current year to accommodate more tree plantings. D. Schueller mentioned that the capacity of the public works department needs to be considered, he doesn't have the manpower to arrange for planting more than 200 in a year. K. Karlis asked how tree species are selected for planting in specific locations. D. Schueller replied that most of the trees are randomly selected, but there is some oversight and customization when needed. D. Schueller stated that it costs \$225 to plant a tree, plus \$100 to plant, \$25 for staking (\$350 per tree total). S. Bard stated that approximately 2,000 flyers were distributed and about 90% of the City was

covered in the 2021 Annual Tree Walk. T. Losey mentioned that having a quantified demand helps with showing there is resident interest in having more tree planting programs. D. Schueller stated that Marine City warrants their trees for one year and will replace dead trees within that first year; typically 10% of trees do not survive their first year.

- **Sidewalk Replacement Project / Coolidge Update** – D. Schueller stated that the sidewalk program is progressing, but labor intensive. Many residents want city owned trees near sidewalks removed due to sidewalk damage. Some residents are upset their trees are being removed. D. Schueller stated that the city will not remove trees unless the city arborist judges they need to be removed. D. Schueller stated that a second arborist opinion is pursued when trees are recommended for removal by the city arborist. D. Schueller stated that 80 trees are scheduled to be removed by Judd Hart for the sidewalk program. D. Schueller stated all the trees on Coolidge will not be removed. Changes need to be made on Coolidge infrastructure to provide long term support for trees. D. Schueller stated when planning for trees along Coolidge, new surfaces, like permeable cement and flexible pavement, should be considered.
- **Tree Ordinance: Sec 130-41(b) – compliance? Issues?** – D. Schueller hasn't heard anything new related to the Tree Ordinance. D. Schueller recommends board members email Code Enforcement when they notice violations of the Tree Ordinance.

Grant information – D. Schueller thanked T. Losey for her work on the DTE grant. The DTE grant is a \$4,000 grant with matching from the city. The money can only be used for purchasing of trees. City labor hours can count toward the \$4,000 match. We will hear back from DTE in one to two months. D. Schueller mentioned another matching grant is available: the Oak Stem Grant. The new grant requires a three-year tree maintenance plan, and the application is due by the end of July.

Tree Board Communication Plan – K. Karlis reported that Kathy and Tricia met with Torri Mathes via Zoom on June 11. They discussed communicating to Berkley residents to educate them on the Tree Ordinance and other helpful tips on tree care. See Berkley Tree Board Communication Plan Proposal 2021-07-12.pdf presentation for more details. S. Bard volunteered to be a co-administrator for the Facebook site. K. Karlis and T. Losey will work on pamphlet for Code Enforcement to help educate residents. K. Karlis asked for the group to come up with a message to go out every two months. K. Karlis will revisit proposal at the September meeting.

Miscellaneous Items

B. Lathrop presented the Tree Book for examination.

Future 2021 Meetings –

B. Penkala will work on the tribute trees and report in the next meeting.

L. Fritsch will bring information regarding the gypsy moth (aka., *Lymantria dispar dispar*) threat.

K. Karlis stated that meetings are scheduled for every other month for the remainder of the year. We will decide 2022 meeting frequency in January 2022.

T. Losey will take minutes at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled September 13, 2021.