

DRAFT

**Berkley Tree Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 25, 2022**

**Present:** K. Karlis, R. Penkala, T. Losey, B. Lathrop, M. Grassa, M. Leneway, S. Bard, H. Tylenda  
**Absent:** L. Fritsch, A. Sitarek  
**In Attendance:** D. Hennen (City Council Liaison)  
S. Young (Staff Liaison - Department of Public Works)  
**Additional Attendees:** none

**Meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m.**

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes** –March 28, 2022 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

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

**Public Comments-** none

**Update from DPW:**

- **Spring Street Tree Planting** – S. Young reported that the Spring Street Tree Planting will occur in late May and 30 trees will be planted consisting of 24 different varieties. The Spring planting cost is approximately \$10,000 of which \$4,000 will be from the DTE Grant and the remaining portion will be from the current year City budget.
- **Update on tree preservation for Cornwall/Kenmore road reconstruction project** – S. Young shared with the Tree Board that at the present time there are 4 trees that have been identified as needing to be removed to accommodate the reconstruction project. S. Young reiterated that the goal was to remove as few trees as necessary but from experience he mentioned that others may need to be removed as well.

**Tree Canopy Update** – T. Losey reported that a webinar was held on March 29 to consult with Matt Swanson from PlanIT Geo regarding their services for a Tree canopy assessment and tree inventory software. From this webinar and previous knowledge gained, a tree canopy assessment and new tree inventory software would range between \$5,000 and \$20,000. The Board is currently defining the goals and considering the benefits of a tree canopy assessment/new tree inventory software and then, if warranted, will pursue City Council’s approval to formally request quotes from potential providers.

**Tribute Tree Update** – During S. Young’s update, he mentioned some of the nuisances and resources required for the current Tribute Tree program. R. Penkala provided some historical background on the program and noted the interest in recent years was sparse. D. Hennen offered some alternative options for the program and those were briefly discussed. R. Penkala offered to research options to the current program and share with the Board at the next meeting.

**Arbor Day Celebration** – K. Karlis reported that the annual Arbor Day proclamation was made at the April 18 City Council meeting. The week of April 25<sup>th</sup> was declared as “Arbor Week” for the City of Berkley and Arbor Day will be celebrated by planting two trees Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the DPW property on Phillips, just south of 12 Mile. Erin Brick’s Daisy troop and Torri Mathes, Community Engagement Manager, will be joining the Tree Board. The event has been designed to be participatory for the attendees.

Also discussed that holding the annual Arbor Day Celebration was one of the 4 requirements for Tree City USA. The other 3 are having a tree board or department responsible for tree care (usually both), having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry.

K. Karlis encouraged attendance and several Board members noted that they plan to participate on Saturday.

**Proposal to Update City Ordinance for Invasive Species** – D. Hennen reported that he is currently waiting to receive input and feedback from the City’s attorneys on the City Ordinance for Invasive Species.

**Tree Board Communication Plan** – The Tree Board Facebook page has been the primary media to share news with our community. In addition to the usual information T. Losey shares to the Facebook group, an event was created to notify residents of the Arbor Day planting and was posted on the Berkley Tree Board Facebook page and T. Mathes also posted this event on the City website. T. Losey also posted a reminder for residents who received new street trees in the Fall to remove the tape from the trunk of their trees. T. Losey will also work to create a post for the Tree Board Facebook page informing items which are prohibited to be placed on City trees.

Kathy thanked Dennis and R. Penkala for their help in sharing the reminder to remove tape from newly planted trees. By sharing this information, over 1,200 people were reached (although all may not be Berkley residents).

#### **Other Topics not on the agenda**

S. Bard requested a review of the care instructions provided to recipients of trees in the City Tree Planting program. R. Penkala and other members mentioned that these have been vetted in the recent past and the review should not be time consuming. The review will be on the agenda for the May meeting.

M. Leneway shared that the current activities of the Oakland County Cisma Invasive Species Board focus primarily on fund raising. He also reminded the Tree Board that Berkley is somewhat of a unique area in Oakland county since is relatively highly developed and thus has fewer invasive species issues.

K. Karlis reported that the Tree of Heaven in her neighborhood has been removed and that the other 2 were not in good health and presumed to be gone as well.

D. Hennen reported that approximately \$10,000 had been received by the City from builders for removed trees for years beginning 2019 through April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2022. 7:00 p.m.** The Public Service Building Conference Room is not available. K. Karlis will work with the City to find another room. Lisa Fritsch has offered to record the minutes for the May meeting.



1,236  
People reached

110  
Engagements

↑ +5.3x higher  
Distribution score

Boost unavailable

You and 3 others

3 Shares

313  
People reached

6  
Engagements

↑ +1.5x higher  
Distribution score

Boost unavailable

Like

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City of Berkeley - Government & Community Services

April 22 at 4:18 PM · 🌐

#CommunityFeature Continuing with the Earth Day celebrations, we will be receiving the Tree City USA Award for the 32nd consecutive year & will also be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day by planting two new trees in partnership with the [City of Berkeley](#), [MI Tree Board](#) and the Girl Scout Daisy Troop on April 30 at 10 am. All are welcome to attend! See event details here: <https://fb.me/e/2cdNpoDeL> ✓



THIS SATURDAY AT 10 AM

Arbor Day celebration

Berkley DPW

You like City of Berkeley, MI Tree Board

Going

