

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 28, 2022**

Present: D. Hennen, D. Schueller, K. Karlis, T. Losey, M. Leneway, S. Bard, R. Penkala

Absent: L. Fritsch, B. Lathrop, M. Grassa, A. Sitarek

Additional visitors: Holly Tylenda

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 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

- D. Schueller announced that he would be moving on to a new position in Farmington Hills, his last day with the City of Berkley will be April 14, 2022. The Tree Board will truly miss the support that Derrick has provided over the past 11 years. Best Wishes!
- Spring Street Tree Planting – D. Schueller shared with Tree Board Members that conversations with Marine City have begun for Spring 2022 planting. The Spring planting will be sometime April 2022 and will cost approximately \$355 per tree, planting approximately 30 trees. These trees will be planted on resident’s roadside greenspace. D. Schueller will be working on the Oak Stem Grant to offset the Fall Planting. The DTE Grant will take care of the entire Spring planting. D. Schueller will make sure these grants and projects are in order when her leaves his position.
- S. Bard suggested to D. Schueller that we continue distributing tree care instructions when new trees are being planted.
- Fall planting was 222 Trees, a great planting season, there is a long list of residents (200) that want to plant trees during the next couple fall seasons. We should advertise a little about the fall program but not too much as we have a good waiting list.
- Update on tree preservation for the Cornwall/Kenmore road construction project – D. Schueller updated the Tree Board that a small percentage of the residents on these two blocks would rather have parking than trees. The plan is to leave as many trees as possible. At the

present there will be 23' span with parking on one side of the street. There is another Town Hall Meeting on March 29, 2022 at 6 p.m. to hear residents' concerns. D. Hennen shared that the City is doing an inventory of where we must have certain traffic patterns and signs and that is how Kenmore/Cornwall was identified to have parking restricted to one side. Construction will begin later in 2022. The center area between 1st Cornwall and 2nd Kenmore will become a rain garden to help with drainage.

Tree Canopy Study Update – Derrick Schueller / Tricia Losey

- Derrick received information from Davey Resource group regarding urban trees canopy assessment (see attached email). D. Schueller has put \$10,000 match for this Tree Canopy Assessment. D. Hennen shared that he went through the written reports from completed projects already done and they really did not look that comprehensive. D. Hennen shared an i-Tree resource for T. Losey to review for this project. This is a free resource if we can figure out how to use it for our project.
- Tricia has also scheduled a meeting with Matt Swanson from PlanIt Geo on Tuesday March 29, 2022 at Noon with herself, S. Bard, D. Hennen and K. Karlis. After the meeting we will get a quote from them. Grand Rapids has used this service for their Tree Canopy Assessment. T. Losey has a USDA Guide for doing a Tree Canopy Assessment, she will share it with the Tree Board Members. D. Hennen will be checking with the City of Royal Oak about a grant they have recently received.

Arbor Day Celebration

- Erin Brick has confirmed the Daisy's will participate in this year's Arbor Day Tree Planting. Two new trees will be planted on Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11 a.m. in behind the DPW office on Phillips. Erin is using Signup Genius to confirm the headcount. K. Karlis is planning to buy small watering cans to give each girl. K. Karlis will fill the watering cans with water on site to make the event more participatory and memorable. K. Karlis may also bring a bagful of mulch so other children in attendance can participate too. We will need to take pictures for the Tree City Award. It is expected that as many Tree Board Members will attend the event as possible.
- Draft Arbor Week Proclamation – D. Schueller (see attachment) shared the 2022 Arbor Day Proclamation that will go to City Council.

Proposal to Update City Ordinance for Invasive Species – D. Hennen shared with us that he has been working on a list that matches the Oakland County Cisma Invasive Species plant list. K. Karlis reviewed the State Laws for invasive species (Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 451 of 1994) and could not find any specifics that defined enforcement for removal of invasive tree species. The law seemed to be more prescriptive for prohibited aquatic plants.

Tree Board Communication Plan – Mulch Volcanoes (DDA / Community) – Erin Brick asked D. Hennen if the Tree Board could provide her with a written recommendation that she could share with the DDA to ask for their support to remediate mulch volcanoes within the DDA district. K. Karlis compiled a one sheet informational communication that could be shared with Erin and the Community and reviewed with Tree Board. T. Losey also provided K. Karlis additional information that might be helpful for this effort. The Tree Board approved the communication. K. Karlis will email to Erin and will also provide to Torri Mathes to post to the City’s Tree Board website and to potentially include in other city communications.

Other Topics discussed:

- T. Losey asked what Hart is doing about the Oaks so they are not pruned during the growing season. D. Schueller shared they come back around during the right time of year to prune these trees.
 - T. Losey asked if we could have Hart use iPads to record a Tree Inventory that could go into the GIS. D. Schueller said they would like to move in that direction and DPW will work with Hart.
 - D. Schueller met with Reliable Landscaping to talk about Porous Pavement out of Canton, MI. D. Schueller has approved to do four tree wells on Coolidge to test this new way of planting and caring for urban trees.
 - D. Hennen shared that the DDA is talking about taking over snow plowing on the sidewalks. They have agreed that we do not want to salt too much to save the trees.
 - T. Losey asked about the Tree Ordinance and is it being enforced and are we collecting funds from builders that take down trees so we can plant a new tree. D. Hennen shared that we make not to be able to stand behind our ordinances as there is something in the courts right now about this topic. Once settled we may be able to move forward with the City of Berkley Ordinance. D. Hennen will ask for quarterly report on how much in tree planting funds had been gathered to date from builders who have removed trees on new build properties.
 - K. Karlis noted that we will have to decide about what to do with invasive species that are on city property. D. Schueller said that these could be taken down if he knew where they were. K. Karlis will update him on known locations for Tree of Heaven.
 - K. Karlis mentioned that R. Penkala will talk about Tribute Tree process and next steps at the April Meeting.
- **Future Meeting Minutes** – Lisa Fritsch had previously offered that she will record the minutes for the April meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Next meeting will be April 25, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at the Public Service Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Email received earlier in March from Lee Mueller to Derrick:

Hey Derrick,

For an urban tree canopy assessment (UTC), we generally use National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) data. These data are captured when vegetation is in full-leave about every two years. The resolution is roughly 1 meter and generally sufficient for most UTC needs. We use GIS software to perform a 5-class land cover assessment (i.e. tree canopy, other vegetation, bare soil, water, and impervious surfaces) and analyze these data by key geographies of interest to your community, which may include neighborhoods, census districts, council districts, land use, and/or zoning classifications. This allows you to explore tree canopy (where it is and where it is not) in a multitude of ways. We also usually use these data to estimate ecosystem benefits (e.g. stormwater, air quality) provided by trees across the community. It's also common to develop a prioritized planting assessment which shows where trees could be planted (both private and public property) that they would return the most benefits to Berkley.

Once we complete a UTC, we return a lot of geographic data to the local community. Therefore, it's best to have a partner involved that will be able to store and house your GIS data for future analysis. Sometimes, there's someone in the City. Other times, communities work with the County or a non-profit. We include a written report with our UTCs. In some cases, this is a web-based report, but we're also comfortable writing traditional paper-based reports. Some communities also choose to have a storymap developed, so they can access their data a little more readily and promote it across the community. Here's an example of a [web-based report](#) and another example of a [storymap](#).

Approximate Budgetary Figures

- \$9,000 for a standard 5-class UTC, ecosystem benefits analysis, prioritized planting, and maps/data. No report.
- +\$6,000 for a written or web-based report.
- +\$6,500 for a storymap.
- TOTAL: approximately \$9,000 to \$21,500

Please feel free to call or respond via email if you have any questions or if more information would be helpful at this time.

—

Lee Mueller, CF | Market Manager (*he/him*)
ISA Certified Arborist #MI-4148A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
SAF Certified Forester
Michigan Registered Forester #46043

Davey Resource Group, Inc.
Environmental Consulting
C: 248.221.0439

A PROCLAMATION
of the Council of the City of Berkley, Michigan
Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day
and Designating the week of
Sunday, April 24 – Saturday, April 30, 2022 as Arbor Week

WHEREAS, Arbor Day was first celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska as a special day set aside for planting trees, and that first year it was observed by planting more than a million trees; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkley is proud to be a recipient of the Tree City USA Award for the 32nd consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, In 2004 Berkley became the first community in the State of Michigan to receive the Sterling Award as a leader and innovator in community forestry; and

WHEREAS, Trees can reduce erosion by wind and water, cut heating and cooling cost, moderate the temperature, clean the air, provide habitat for wildlife, increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, Trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of our business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, Trees play a critical role in controlling stormwater runoff by reducing the amount of water that enters combined sewer systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY HEREBY PROCLAIMS

SECTION 1: That Friday, April 29, 2022 shall be designated as Arbor Day in the City of Berkley.

SECTION 2: That the week of Sunday, April 24 – Saturday, April 30, 2022 shall be designated as Arbor Week in the City of Berkley.

SECTION 3: The City of Berkley urges all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in the City of Berkley to nurture and care for existing trees, as well as plant new ones, and to become aware of how beneficial trees are to the Earth's beauty and environment.

SECTION 4: The City of Berkley urges all residents to support the Berkley Tree Board, celebrating their 32nd Anniversary, pursuing various programs with the goal of making the community aware of the importance of trees and other natural vegetation.

SECTION 5: In celebration of the above, the Department of Public Works and Tree Board will be planting two (2) new trees at the Public Works property located on Bacon south of 12 Mile. The event is planned for X PM on XYXY, April XY.

Proclaimed this 18th day of April 2022 at a Regular Meeting of the Berkley City Council.

Daniel J. Terbrack, Mayor

Attest:

Victoria Mitchell, City Clerk

Can you over mulch a tree?

Spring is slowly unfolding and gardeners are itching to get outside to prepare the soil for the growing season. And one ritual is to mulch the beds. Mulching can provide nutrients to the soil and help retain moisture.

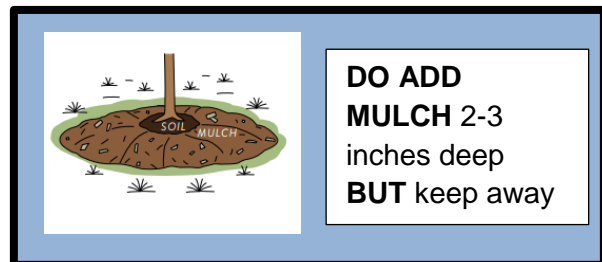
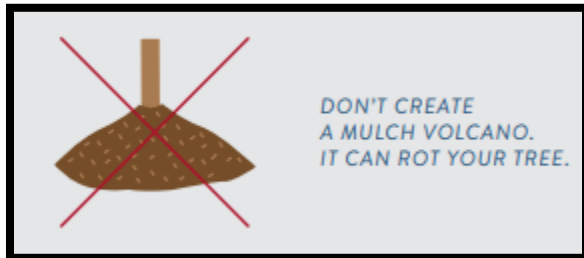
However, The City of Berkley Tree Board wants to stress:

Do not create a mulch volcano around your tree!

There are two reasons why mulch volcanoes are bad for trees. The first is the possible impact on the roots that grow near the surface. These roots are seeking oxygen, and too much mulch can lead to stressed and dying roots and a stressed tree is more vulnerable to insect and diseases.

The most important reason to not pile mulch into a volcano shape around the base of the tree is to protect the tree trunk. If the bark surrounding the base of the tree is kept constantly moist, over time the conductive tissue beneath the bark will decay. This will negatively impact the tree's ability to transfer its nutrients and water upward and downward and increases the probability of tree death!

The proper way to mulch a tree is to create a mulch donut. The mulch should start about two inches away from the tree trunk and should only be about 2-3 inches deep.



For more information:

Cue, Kathleen "Mulch Volcanoes – A Harmful Practice for Trees" University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, n.d., <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dodge/mulch-volcanoes-a-harmful-practice-for-trees/>

"A Pocket Guide to Planting Trees" State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources, ©2020 <https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/treecare/planting/pocket-guide.pdf>

Landis, Joy "Nightmare results for appliers of volcano mulch", Michigan State University MSU Extension, May 16, 2008,

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/nightmare_results_for_appliers_of_volcano_mulch