

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Online via Zoom**

Present: D. Schueller, K. Karlis, M. Grassa, B. Penkala, B. Lathrop, S. Sekora, L. Fritsch, M. Schneider

Absent: D. Hennen, T. Losey, K. Wilt

Public Member: Stephen Bard

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

Zoom Meeting Details:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://berkleymich.zoom.us/j/91217408998>

Phone: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 912 1740 8998

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – Sept. 15, 2020 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda – approved

Public Comments- see “New Items” on page 2

Update from DPW - *Derrick Schueller*

Fall tree planting program- about 120 trees ordered. 15 different varieties, about 8 each. No maples this year to increase diversity. Late Nov./early Dec. for planting. About 12 people inquired for next year. D. Hennen mentioned previously he would like to increase the budget for tree planting. Some species to be planted: Redbud, Beech, Tulip, Black Gum, Oaks, Lindens, Elms, Plane Tree.

Sidewalk program: 1st year in SW section of city. 2” or above of displacement is priority to address immediately. Next year they want to cover 2 sections and address immediate concerns. Homeowners are paying for cost. Residents have expressed their displeasure with trees causing sidewalk heaving. DPW verified that all silver maples in easements that have problems were addressed in the area covered this year.

Memorial trees - *Bob Penkala*. He has purchased two so far as examples for memorial trees he has purchased. One is a stone marker and the other is a tree medallion with cable to attach to tree. Other options include staked versions and a granite plaque. (See samples emailed to tree board members). Pricing varies from about \$25-\$85. Residents may want to purchase on their own? Does the board want to recommend specific options? Concerns are cost, durability, placement for landscaping crews. The board thinks staked options may be a good choice due to visibility and durability. D. Schueller put information into the DPW tribute tree file for reference when residents call. L. Fritsch asked if it should be required that markers be placed with all future tribute trees. D. Schueller thinks that is a good idea. B. Penkala has placed a rock-style marker a tree by the library on Beverly that we can see for reference. Another one is by Oxford Park- a redbud.

B. Penkala asked who will be keeping track of tribute trees? D. Schueller thinks both the tree board and DPW can do so. He will update his spreadsheet and make sure the tree board has an updated copy. K. Karlis asked if we can add the spreadsheet to the tree board section of the city website for resident access. B. Penkala will check out current info and verify.

Grant information - Kathy Karlis

“Splash Park” / ReLeaf Michigan.

K. Karlis attended a grant webinar in August. Davey Company did the presentation along with ReLeaf Michigan. ReLeaf provides the trees, but DPW would do the planting, much like previous Arbor Day events. They provide 1 1/2”- 2” caliper trees. This is standard size for street trees.

D. Schueller had mentioned trees had to be removed from the Splash Park plan due to budget constraints. K. Karlis contacted Parks and Rec and Theresa Carleton would like to come to our January meeting to discuss options. D. Hennen emailed K. Karlis and said he will be going to a planning meeting soon and wants to know what the tree board would like covered in that meeting.

L. Fritsch thinks trees are very important for the Splash Park. Let’s try to make this a priority for next year’s budget. The board can work with ReLeaf for grant opportunities. ReLeaf might be able to provide up to 20 trees.

M. Grassa wonders if that could be part of next year’s Arbor Day program and also a location for tribute trees. She also asked if the Beautification Committee would like to be involved as well.

K. Karlis will share our interest in working with ReLeaf for the Splash Pad as a 2021 Arbor Day event.

Library program “Trees, Trees, and Trees” Nov. 14 - Kathy Karlis

An MSU student put together a program for the city of Flint and will be doing a presentation for the city of Berkley sponsored by the Berkley Public Library.

This Saturday, November 14 at 10am via Zoom. K. Karlis asked that we share this information via social media and with friends and neighbors to increase publicity.

Currently, there are only 2 people registered. M. Grassa said D. Hennen gets good response when he posts on various public Facebook/Nextdoor pages. D. Schueller is going to check if it can be recorded so it can be accessible to all residents for future reference.

“The Trees of Berkley” Guide – Kathy Karlis

Asia Delton and her students at MSU created this guide for the city based on the previous tree inventory from the 1990’s. K. Karlis reviewed the list and if she could not find any trees currently planted, she asked they be removed from the list. It might be handy down the road- maybe do a family scavenger hunt or some activity related to historical Berkley trees.

New Items-

This meeting:

MSU guidelines for mulching trees is shared. There are some areas where resident Stephen Bard had noticed mulch was too thick around the base of trees. D. Schueller printed a copy of this detail and addressed it with the DPW crews so they are up to date. S. Bard also noted that trees root flare should be planted slightly above grade for best growth and root health. D. Schueller also contacted Marine City (company that plants city trees) to note this.

Priorities for future meetings:

Tree City USA application is due December 31, 2020. D. Schueller will be taking care of this in the next few weeks. By the January meeting, it should be approved.

Adjournment- 7:59pm

Next Meeting- January 11, 2020