

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 11, 2021
7:02 p.m. – Online via Zoom**

Present: D. Schueller, K. Karlis, B. Penkala, S. Sekora, M. Schneider, D. Hennen, T. Losey

Absent: K. Wilk, L. Fritsch, M. Grassa, B. Lathrop

Additional visitor: Theresa McArleton- Berkley Parks & Rec director

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

Zoom Meeting Details:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://berkleymich.zoom.us/j/95961281251>

Phone: 1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 959 6128 1251

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2020 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda – approved

Public Comments- none

Trees for Oxford/Merchant Park – *Theresa McArleton*

Wants Tree Board input on where to plant various trees. Wants to leave large, open space areas. 6 foot walkway will meander through the park. Suggestions have been to line walkways with trees. Put some large trees behind splash pad. Only one tree had to be removed. Prefer native and shade. Possible to put trees by fence near ballfields. Will be adding some small hills for variety/texture. She would like our ideas and will price out suggestions. D. Schueller asked about schedule. April 19 is date of main scope of project to be done. Still discussions about if there will be a walkway near the homes that abut the fence line. Hope to be done by May. K. Karlis asked if original plans included trees. Plans showed trees, but no specific info about species. K. Karlis said there is a ReLeaf Michigan grant that may be applied for that could help offset cost. Memorial trees might be an option to add as well.

D. Hennen - avoid trees that produce debris, a lot of pollen. K. Karlis asked if any tree board members would be willing to help with the planning. Shade will be important for people who are supervising children playing. Time for plantings could be this April for Arbor Day? per D. Schueller, then in the fall with the fall planting program, and possibly Spring 2022 if grants are obtained. He would run the suggestions by their arborist to make sure the ideas are solid. M. Schneider, T. Losey, and R. Penkala will help K. Karlis with this project. D. Hennen asked T. McArleton to share the plans with the tree board.

Update from DPW - *Derrick Schueller*

Fall tree planting complete. 118 trees planted. Around 90 trees removed last year, so overall a net positive of trees planted vs. removed. He read an email he received thanking the City for the gift of the tree they received from this year's planting.

Tree City USA application was submitted. This will be the City of Berkley's 30th year in the program.

Arbor Day 2021? - Do we plant for the new splash pad as the event this year? K. Karlis expressed how challenging it is for the community to plan right now and we will discuss in March for a feasible option.

Memorial trees - Bob Penkala

Nothing new to add. He has installed two markers that cost less than \$60. He will order a staked option to try. He mentioned that Dow Gardens has their trees marked with a tag that is screwed in the trunk. First by the library on the northeast side of the building, closest to Coolidge. The other is Oxford Park by the sidewalk. Both markers are set in the mulch.

Grant programs - T. Losey

She will be taking a grant-writing workshop this week through SEMCOG that D. Schueller told her about.

R. Penkala mentioned he noticed how much larger the trees are this year that were planted.

2021-2022 Budget Consideration- K. Karlis

The tree board will ask the city to budget for 200 trees for next fiscal year since the program was so successful this year.

D. Hennen said for basic grants can we use our proposed budget for next year (200 trees) when applying for grants? He asked T. Losey to see what she can find out during the workshop this week. D. Schueller cannot over-commit his staff for grant projects. Would like to leverage what he has set up with Marine City as much as possible.

D. Hennen said the current budget can be adjusted for line items if needed for grant proposals.

Other?- K. Karlis

Does the tree board want to explore the city-wide tree inventory/tree survey? M. Schneider would prefer to wait until next year.

D. Hennen fiscal year begins July, so how does that affect pricing for trees? D. Schueller doesn't have that information. K. Karlis shared that when applying for grants for tree surveys, they ask about how trees will be maintained, not just how many there are.

D. Schueller is open to working on the tree inventory and finding a way to get J. Hart (owner of arborist company contracted by the city) to work on improving the data on the current tree inventory.

New items- none.

Adjournment- 7:54pm

Next Meeting- March 8, 2021