

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 8, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Online session via Zoom**

Present: D. Hennen, R. Penkala, M. Grassa, S. Sekora, K. Karlis, D. Schueller, T. Losey, L. Fritsch, M. Schneider

Absent: B. Lathrop, K. Wilt, S. Sekora

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome – M. Grassa

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes reviewed and approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda – M. Grassa present agenda as proposed.

Public Comments - None

Update from DPW Director/Fall Planting Program – D. Schueller – DPW field crews are working in staggered groups due to COVID. Back to normal operations. Marine City will do the fall planting again this year. Free trees to residents program is funded as of July 1st and is offered on a first come, first serve basis, up to 145 trees per D. Hennen. Deadline to be placed on list is mid-August. L. Fritsch asked if residents can purchase trees from the city to be planted on private property. D. Schueller said yes, but they would have to pay the full cost since DPW is at its budget limit. M. Grassa asked about tree trimming. D. Schueller said block trimming is returning to usual. L. Fritsch asked about who gets to choose the tree species for the new program. D. Schueller said DPW, but they will be open to input from residents. The goal is to increase species diversity throughout the city. L. Fritsch also asked about new builds and if trees are being replaced that are removed for construction. D. Schueller would like to encourage builders to do this at the time of the build.

Update on City budget for tree planting- D. Hennen- as discussed above. Money has been budgeted for the city to offer a free tree to be planted on the easement to residents beginning this fall.

Grant Information – T. Losey – DTE grant application is due June 15, 2020. Doesn't look feasible at this time. Urban forestry grant is open until September. D. Hennen shared there is no budget this year for a matching funds grant. Future grants may be considered, but due to many unknowns for future city budgets, the tree board will not pursue matching grants at this time.

City Tree Inventory update- K. Karlis- Volunteer inventory will not go this year due to COVID and budget constraints. Her contact at MSU will be making an assignment for her students and they will share the information with the community. One of the students ran a hazard tree ID workshop and one on irrigation and care of trees. This workshop may be able to be presented as an online session for the community in the future. Consider partnering with the library? M.

Schneider and the rest of the board thanked K. Karlis for her hard work and dedication on the tree inventory.

Memorial Trees- R. Penkala- he spoke with D. Schueller and looked into different options for memorial tree markers. The board would like to make sure that future memorial trees are required to have a plaque (cost would be covered by the resident). D. Hennen asked if there could be different priced options offered. R. Penkala will look into options.

New business- M. Grassa- T. Losey and S. Sekora have reapplied for their tree board positions. D. Hennen expects to remain council liaison for the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting will be August 10, 2020 via Zoom.

2020 Meeting Schedule:

Monday, August 10, 2020

Monday, September 14, 2020

Monday, October 12, 2020