

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2023**

Present: K. Karlis, S. Bard, B. Lathrop, T. Losey, H. Tylanda,, M. Leneway, L. Fritsch, D. Hennen, S. Young, L. Price, M Grassa

Absent: None

Additional visitors: Cynthia Wilhelm (Resident)

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes –Mar 27, 2023 meeting minutes approved.

Review and Approval of Agenda –The agenda was approved as proposed.

Public Comments- None

DPW Update– S. Young provided this feedback to be shared at the Tree Board:

- Arbor Day Planting - The Arbor Day Planting is set for 2 trees in the center boulevard of Cass near 11 mile on April 29th from 9am - 11 am. The closest houses would be 1767 and 1851 Cass. The board or volunteers are welcome to perform the actual plantings if they wish. DPW staff can be there to provide support and materials or perform the actual plantings. Just let me know so we can staff accordingly. Kathy is putting notifications at the house on either side of the boulevard to invite the nearby residents to join us.
 - K. Karlis asked S. Young if he can give her the Tree City USA banners on Saturday at the Arbor Day tree planting - to be used for Berkley Days.
- Spring Planting - The Spring planting is almost complete - planting 14 residential trees 4 boulevard trees, 2 Arbor Day Trees, and warranty replacement trees.
- Fall 2023 Tree Planting Program:
 - “Proposed” Budget:
 - - \$15,000 for potential DNR matching grant
 - - plus cost to plant 250 trees, city covers full cost
 - Also J H Hart cost is going down somewhat as they are catching up on the years of tree maintenance previously neglected

Common Area Tree Coverage - S.Bard, as in the past, suggested that a criterion used in deploying the City’s tree resources and efforts should be resident’s usage. Whereas areas of higher usage, (entrances and other common areas) should receive higher priority than areas with lower usage. With that thought in mind, he looked at the four boulevard entrances into the City, since they are high usage (entrances) and are common areas (boulevards). He indicated that there were approximately 1.5 trees per home in those areas consistent with the Cass

Boulevard between Harvard and Cambridge which he used as a benchmark. He will continue to look at other locations throughout the year and will perhaps revisit at a future meeting. Although he again stressed there should be some tangible, explainable criteria used when deploying City resources.

Identifying Largest Trees in Berkley -: M. Leneway proposed a largest tree in Berkley contest. He has offered to go out and measure trees that have been nominated (with resident's permission for private property). The board discussed possibly having two categories, public and private. Additional details will need to be discussed at future meetings, however the board agreed that this would be a great community outreach event. M. Leneway will bring a sign up/nomination sheet to have available at Berkley Days. We can further promote it through our Facebook page.

Marine City Visit: Fall Digging Hazard Trees – K. Karlis & T. Losey

On April 5 K. Karlis and T. Losey met with Courtney LaBuhn at Marine City. Our purpose was to be better informed about their processes so we could do a better job in our roles advising the City.

Courtney reviewed the history of the nursery. It was founded in Eastern Market by her great grandfather in the 1920's. During WWII her father bought the property in Marine City. And a couple of years ago, Courtney and her brother bought out the uncles and continue to run the family business.

They grow some of their own trees but mostly get trees from their suppliers in other states. They supply to a number of cities in the Detroit Metro area: Huntington Woods, Troy (bid by tree species), the Grosse Pointes, Northville, Ann Arbor etc.

She discussed with us the communication she has been receiving from her suppliers for some species of trees that are best dug out for shipment in the Spring and not the Fall. She recommended ideally we split our plantings between the two. This option poses problems with the greater need for watering in the spring climate and the limited resources available to do this. K. Karlis provided a copy of the notification from one of these suppliers.

Courtney showed K. Karlis and T. Losey how Marine City receives the orders from Berkley (each tree species is identified by address) and discussed the warranty. She explained that each address is assigned a tree prior to delivery based on the location. We conveyed the board's recommendation to consider diversity as paramount. She also gave us a brief tour of the back complex. They have a small retail store and some plants available for retail purchase but are primarily a wholesale supplier.

Residential Tree Giveaway Program Update:

Greening of Detroit (Fai Foen, Green Infrastructure Director)– Lisa Fritsch spoke with F. Foen from the Greening of Detroit. They have shifted to growing their own trees. They grew 100 last year, and about 200 this year. They are eventually hoping to do a pilot program where they sell trees to another community at a low cost. She indicated Berkley might be perfect because of our smaller size. Fai also recommended we try to look into procuring a water reservoir placed in a truck to water our trees, but the staffing needed for this isn't available at this time. They have a list of approximately 30 species that they offer to residents. They do limit Red Oaks, and no Maples are allowed. She relayed that they use corporate and federal grants for their residential tree program and recommended that we keep track of volunteer hours to use as a portion of our match for grant funding. We need to talk with L. Sobson at the DNR to determine the eligibility and requirements around volunteer hours. Lisa is going to The Greening of Detroit's tree giveaway on April 28 to help and see how they run their event. Fai also offered some native shrubs for us to raffle off at Berkley days and Lisa will bring to our tent.

Arbor Day Foundation – Community Canopy Program Tricia Losey

T. Losey shared the Community Canopy program through Arbor Day for our private property tree giveaway. Rochester Hills currently uses this program and they offered about 200 1 to 4 foot trees to the community. Residents are able to go online, put in their address and see a map of their property. The website helps them decide the best location and species from the available list. Then the trees are directly shipped to their homes. The program has a 100 tree minimum. Trees are approximately \$40 each so that would be a minimum of a \$4000 cost for the program. We hope to raise some money from our raffle at Berkley days to be put towards this. Lisa and Tricia will reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to discuss possible sponsorship ideas.

Community Engagement “Berkley Days” –

Our primary focus is community outreach and education. Two/Three people have signed up for each time slot with full coverage for Friday-Sunday event hours.

Tent, Table and Chairs - the area will be set up on Thursday. B. Lathrop has agreed to supply a canopy tent and D. Hennen will bring chairs and M. Leneway and T. Losey will provide tables

Trifolds - K. Karlis had (100) color trifolds printed. The City has offered to pay for another (500) trifolds to be given to the Chamber of Commerce to include in packages to be given to new residents. K. Karlis will have these as backup if needed for Berkley Days.

DNR Materials - Lawrence Sobson has agreed to pick up some goodies for us to hand out (Tree Owner manuals, handouts, “stickers and whatnot”). Lisa has volunteered to go with Kathy to meet up with Lawrence to get these material from him.

K. Karlis printed a copy of the Urban Tree Canopy Study to have available on the table to discuss with residents the canopy cover in their neighborhoods.

Tree Raffle - Four Seasons Nursery has offered to support the tree raffle. They surveyed their providers and provided a list of trees available for purchase. However, the smallest size they offered were 10 gallons (nicer trees but more expensive than originally planned). Although K. Karlis intended a mix of shade and flowering trees, no shade trees were offered/available suitable for yard planting. Four Seasons has agreed to deliver the trees at no charge to the Community Center.

Kathy decided to order (2) Cherokee Brave Dogwoods and (1) Forest Pansy Redbud tree. She procured a bucket suitable for the raffle tickets from The Lunch Cafe. She purchased (2,000) raffle tickets which come as printed pads from Amazon so we could get contact information for the winners. As said before the tickets will be sold as \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for 5 tickets. She plans to draw the winners on Sunday before 6 pm in the hopes the winners can come to the Community Center to pick out their tree. If not, her son-in-law has said he will help her make deliveries if necessary.

K. Karlis will have a cashbox available to make change and will bring it to the Community Center each day and take it home each night. Friday, L. Fritch will bring the box. Kathy will also have a sheet to be witnessed each day with the funds received. The money will be turned over to the City after the event.

K. Karlis has downloaded some activity sheets from Arbor Day Foundation and has had (150) printed off in color. She may get more in black and white for backup. She will also bring two plastic containers, one with colored pencils and one with crayons.

K. Karlis has two large plastic containers to store all the materials. T. McArleton has agreed that we may store these overnight in the Community Center.

D. Hennen recommended the board take photos to share on social media and for our tree city USA designation.

Other Topics not on the agenda – no other topics were added to the agenda.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 22 (2nd Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Building).

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.