

**MINUTES OF THE TREE COMMISSION MEETING HELD AT THE GREENFIELD DPW, ON THURSDAY,
January 09, 2014, AT 6:30 PM**

1. Joan Stevens, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

***Meeting called to order
at 6:34 PM***

Roll Call:	Joan Stevens	Present
	Ald. Linda Lubotsky	Present
	Michael Wendt	Present
	Becky Thorpe	Present
	Lew Silva	Present

Also Present: Jon Kolster, Foreman Public Works
Dennis Fermenich, City Forester

2. Approval of the November 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes

***Approval of 11/14/13
Minutes***

Dennis noted that in item #11 the park should be noted as Falcon View Park

It was moved by Ms. Thorpe, seconded by Could Not Be Determined, to approve the November 14, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Aldermanic Report

Aldermanic Report

There is an old Oak Tree on the Morgan Ave. ROW near Glenwood School where the city is preparing to do work. The city engineer plans to speak with Mr. Fermenich about it next week. Mr. Fermenich believes the tree of concern is approximately 100 years old.

4. Superintendent of Public Works Report

Public Works Report

No Report

Chair Report

5. Chair Report

Ms. Stevens met with Mr. Fermenich to prepare for the Tree City USA and Growth Award applications. She prepared the volunteer information and forestry accomplishments for the award as well.

Ms. Stevens contacted a perspective new Tree Commission member, Karl Schroeder. He was supposed to attend the meeting but had to go out of town.

Ms. Stevens indicated that the new Recreator has been distributed. An article written by Mr. Fermenich regarding treating Ash Trees against EAB was published in the Community Connections section.

6. City Forester's Report

City Forester's Report

Quite a bit of time in December was spent remarking trees for removal and confirming addresses. There is a sizable amount of trees on the pruning list. DPW has several employees who have a pretty substantial background in pruning and removal.

Mr. Fermenich looked at a project on 41st Street and Layton Avenue where the church wants to expand and develop four home sites.

Mr. Fermenich is working with the City of Greenfield IT department in an attempt to obtain access to PubWorks, a new program that the DPW is using to track service requests.

Because of expansions, the Potawatomi have removed 22 arborvitae from their site. They have been offered to the City of Greenfield for no charge. The arborvitae are park grade and could be used for screening. Mr. Fermenich plans to use them at Brookside Park and at the Law Enforcement Center.

7. Discussion and Decision regarding proposed changes to the Tree Policy Manual

Tree Policy Manual Changes

Mr. Fermenich handed out proposed changes to the manual to the Tree Commission. The purpose of the policy is to get more of a tree canopy in the city. The current policy for residential development only requires turf to be planted. The proposed change would require the planting at least one tree. The building inspector who checks that the turf is in can verify that the tree is planted as well.

Mr. Fermenich would like to change the title on page 14 "Appeal Process for Street Removal" to read "Appeal Process for Street Tree Placement and Tree Preservation Disputes". He would like the language changed in Item 1 to say that disputes must be submitted in writing to the Division of Public Works clearly stating the details of the dispute along with the desired outcome. Upon receipt the DPW will request the item be placed on the next agenda of the Tree Commission meeting. DPW staff would then provide meeting information to all involved parties. Paragraphs 2 and 3 were also reworded. Item 4 would remain the same.

The final page of proposed changes is on page 15. He recommends Item C be changed to reflect a cost of \$125 per diameter inch for all trees 3 inches in diameter or larger. Trees less than 3 inches in diameter will be valued at \$300 per tree. Trees larger than 10 inches in diameter may be valued using the Guide for Plant Appraisal 9th Edition. Appraisals are the responsibility of the owner/builder must be done by a certified arborist and is subject to review by the city forester. City Forester's findings may be appealed to the Tree Commission.

It was moved by Could Not Be Determined seconded by Ms. Thorpe to accept the changes to the Tree Policy Manual as put forth by Dennis Fermenich including changes regarding to tree size. Under discussion it was decided that changes need to be made to the Master Tree List. Those proposed changes will be discussed during the next meeting. Motion carried Unanimously

8. Discussion regarding licensing of Arborists

Licensing of Arborists

Mr. Fermenich has been researching what other communities have done on this topic. He has not found any cities where he could lift the wording from. He was surprised at how many states and communities do require licensing. In these places

fees range anywhere from \$10 to \$100 with the average annual fee being \$25. Mr. Fermenich believes that the goal is to give the city an opportunity to publish a list of arborists and tree companies that are acting in a professional manner. He believes this would give him and other inspectors the opportunity to stop operations if they determine there are safety issues. He feels there should be a reasonable fee charged, at least one certified arborist on staff and the requirement that arborists provide proof of insurance. They would need to abide by ANSI standards (both Z133 safety standards and A300 procedure standards).

It was discussed that getting information out to tree contractors that a permit is required would be very difficult. Monitoring and enforcement would be impossible.

Mr. Kolster also said that there could be a problem providing the residents a list because if something goes wrong the resident will blame the city. He also questioned how the licensing would be enforced. Per Ald. Lubotsky, this would be a civil matter that the police would not become involved in. She said the resident can hire whomever they want without the city's approval.

Ald. Lubotsky suggested that Mr. Fermenich have a conversation with the city attorney to obtain insight.

It was suggested that an article be written for the Recreator which explains to residents the insurance ramifications of not hiring an insured reputable tree service.

Next Agenda

9. 2014 Planting Contract

2014 Planting Contract

Nothing has changed since Mr. Fermenich reported on this issue at the last meeting.

10. Annual Review of 2013 Accomplishments, Tree City and Growth Award and Goal Setting for 2014.

Annual Review

The list of 2013 accomplishments were provided to and reviewed by the Tree Commission members. It was noted that there are summer and fall Arborist Conferences that could be added to future accomplishment lists. Ms. Stevens asked that if anyone attends any workshops or conferences throughout the year to provide her with the information so it can be put toward the Tree City USA and Growth Awards.

11. Review of Forester's Contract (Closed Session)

Review of Forestry Contract

It was moved by Could Not be Determined, seconded by Ms. Thorpe for the Commission to go into closed session, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes, Section 19.85(1) (c), to consider the Forester's Contract. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**It was moved by Ms. Thorpe, seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn the closed session and reconvene into open session.
The motion carried unanimously.**

12. Discussion and Decision regarding Arborist Conference

Arborist Conference

It was determined that Mr. Fermenich and Mr. Wendt will attend the conference. Mr. Fermenich's conference fee would be paid for from the Tree Commission budget. All other associated costs including hotel room would be paid for by Mr. Fermenich.

It was decided unanimously that the Mr. Fermenich's conference fees would be paid. No motions made.

13. Suggested date and discussion items for next meeting.

***Suggested Date and
Items for Next Meeting***

- Discussion and decision regarding the proposed changes to the policy manual.
- Licensing for arborists.
- Tree Planting Contracts

Next meeting will be on Thursday, March 6, 2014.

14. Adjournment

Adjournment

It was moved by Could Not Be Determined, seconded by Ms. Thorpe, to adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 8:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marina Schmidt
Clerk Typist
Division of Public Works

Date distributed: February 14, 2014