



TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

1. Joan Stevens, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm. **Meeting called to order at 6:48 pm**

Roll Call:	Joan Stevens	Present
	Ald. Bruce Bailey	Excused
	Terry Krell	Present
	Joe Dex for John Laskoski	Present
	Dennis Fermenich	Present
	Andrew Drzewiecki	Excused
	Robert Hansen	Present

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes **Approval of 3/16/2023 Minutes**

It was moved by Terry Krell seconded by Robert Hansen to approve the March 16, 2023 meeting minutes.

3. Aldermanic Report **Aldermanic Report**

No report at this time.

4. Superintendent of Public Works Report **Public Works Report**

DPW has been working on clearance pruning at the parks for grass cutting. We were also working on some windfall clean-up at Brookside Park.

Mr. Dex spoke with Steve Prokop who reported that Arbor Day went well.

5. Chair Report **Chair Report**

Ms. Stevens spoke with Mayor Neitzke who gave the approval to put up the Arbor Day flag on a flag pole at City Hall.

Ms. Stevens also reported that she reached out to Lauren Boos and left a message regarding the process to join the Tree Commission which included speaking with someone at City Hall before the next Common Council meeting. Mr. Fermenich commented that Ms. Boos is very interested in becoming an adjunct member. She has a strong environmental background and fair amount of education in that general area. Mr. Fermenich had mentioned this to Mayor Neitzke at Arbor Day and Mayor Neitzke informed him to have her contact City Hall.

Ms. Stevens contacted the Whitnall High School Curriculum Director to mention the ideas her and Mr. Fermenich came up with to spread awareness and gain support. Ms. Stevens informed the Director that they are looking for a school board member from the district to become a volunteer member for the Tree Commission. She would like for Whitnall School District to add a permanent Arbor Day to their annual events. Ms. Stevens had attended Whitnall High School's first Arbor Day that occurred on May 9th, 2023, she reiterated how beneficial this is for the schools. She also brought up the idea of an educational program for students to go over environmental topics, trees, pollinators and the 3 bees as well as seeking out participation from students and staff to attend Greenfield's Arbor Day celebration.

Ms. Stevens planned and carried out the fundraising for Greenfield's Arbor Day. She spoke with Renee regarding the amount raised which came out to be \$3,176.57, not including the Tree Commission portion which brought the overall funding up to \$3,461.57. Ms. Stevens mentioned that Don Carlson bought a tree for the planting and the Optimist Club had a tree dedicated to the event from Lutheran Social Services. Mr. Krell dropped off Arbor Day flyers at Sendik's, Shorewest, Ray's Butcher Shop, Stu's Flooring, Bluemel's and Grand Appliance in hopes of response. Mr. Fermenich stated that it would be good to keep a list in the future and get sponsor names added to the Beautification and Forestry page in the Recreator for recognition. Mr. Hansen brought up sending out an informational Arbor Day flyer through the schools, not the donation form, but a separate flyer just to invite all of the students and families out for the event.

The Beautification Committee funded a 20 person brass band in the amount of \$100.00 for Greenfield's Arbor Day. Ms. Stevens stated that they were very good and well received, she is hoping to fund them again for next year's Arbor Day. She is going to write thank you letters to the brass band as well as all of the donors. Every year Ms. Stevens mails out new flyers to past donors along with thank you letters to show appreciation for what they are doing. She is also going to send out thank you letters to the Fire Department for their volunteers, Pick 'n Save for their donation of cookies & Starbucks for their donation of coffee.

Ms. Stevens reached out to Mayor Neitzke's secretary to have her notify all staff members at City Hall about the sculpture's unveiling taking place on Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 5:15 pm on the south side of City Hall. Ms. Steven's will be extending an invite to the sculptor and Polly Morris, Head of the Lynden Sculpture Garden, who helped connect Ms. Stevens to the sculptor. She is also extending an invite to all Tree Commission Members and everyone at this meeting.

6. City Forester's Report

City Forester's Report

Mr. Fermenich has been working on getting all of the bald and burlap trees in ground at Konkel Park. These were put in for screening purposes, eventual sound barrier ability for the Amp and "batters eye" for the baseball players. He reports that over the past three to four weeks he has been working very closely with Pupero who won the bid contract for the Honey Creek restoration project. He has been working to teach them how to plant seedlings, bald and burlap trees and how to stake them properly. Pupero was very receptive and worked really well with Mr. Fermenich on completing the plantings. Some of these plantings included 25 black walnuts, 25 white pines, 50 black cherries, 50 swamp white oaks, 25 tamarack

seedlings, etc. Mr. Fermenich was able to help Pupero solve some issues in the project which aided in preventing additional labor costs. Pupero in turn assisted Mr. Fermenich in acquiring additional trees beyond contract at no extra charge. The contracted counts went from 800 whips to about 850 whips and 140 bald and burlap trees to about 145 bald and burlap trees.

Mr. Fermenich has also been working with the City Planning Department and has three landscape reviews set for next week.

Mr. Fermenich has been occupied with many service requests lately which he has just about getting caught up to besides updating them in PubWorks. There are a couple more he has to assess, but he has spoken with the residents regarding their concerns.

Mr. Fermenich reports that it has been an exciting Spring. DPW has taken over a lot of tasks that used to strictly occupy his time which has allowed him to complete a larger variety of City Forester related tasks.

Mr. Fermenich stated that DPW staff that attending 2023 Arbor Day were extremely supportive and exceptionally attentive to every detail. The Eagle Scout who was attending connected Mr. Fermenich with the Girl Scout Troops. They also came out to help plant the other perennial bed at Konkell Park, which was paid for by the Parks Department. Mr. Fermenich stated that there was a lot of positive feedback from the kids and he will be reaching out to the Eagle Scouts and Girl Scouts to reconnect for future events.

The 2023 Nature Fest will be held on August 27th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mr. Fermenich spoke with Jeff Katz in Engineering regarding putting on a tour of the Honey Creek Restoration Project afterwards. This will help showcase the modern techniques of waterways in urban settings and help residents to stay informed. Mr. Fermenich will mention reaching out to the Journal Sentinel to Mr. Katz as well so the information on the project gains further reach. Mr. Fermenich mentioned posting an announcement at City Hall for the tour and is still looking for additional ideas as to different means of outreach.

Mr. Fermenich would like a couple Tree Commission members to volunteer for Nature Fest. Tree Commission members at Nature Fest would help inform of the Honey Creek tour ahead of time as well as assist with the Raptor Show. Mr. Fermenich thinks it would be beneficial to have at least one extra hand there at 9:00am just for general help around the fest and then at least one person there to assist with the Raptor Show which will be there from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Ms. Stevens talked about helping out around either 10:00 am or 12:00 pm. More information regarding Nature Fest needs will be sent out to the Tree Commission prior to August 27th to solidify all the details.

7. 2024 Forestry Grant Application

The Forestry Grant Application is due by October 1st, 2023 and is typically not available until July 1st. Mr. Fermenich will be requesting assistance for the following:

- 2024 Nature Fest
- Around 25 ash tree replacements

2024 Forestry Grant Application

- DPW forestry equipment needs (chainsaws, hand tools, etc.)
- Educational programs for the schools – Mr. Fermenich to speak with Charity Meyer, Curriculum Director for primary & secondary
- Strong focus on community outreach
- Konkel Park tree walkway that connects to Edgewood and Greenfield High School (reestablishing the walk, planting trees, educational signs and brochures, etc.), including the outdoor classroom

Mr. Fermenich has been working on ash treatments since 2002, he has been working on eliminating ash trees since then sporadically yet intentionally. He has been culling more aggressively and working on identifying any signs of emerald ash borer infestations. On Arbor Day alone, DPW replaced 6 more ash trees which were replaced with other trees. Mr. Fermenich will be providing the new DPW Superintendent with an updated list of ash trees for treatment.

Mr. Hansen mentioned that there are other grants being announced that would be worth applying for as well such as the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, etc. Mr. Fermenich stated that he has been building a relationship with the Department of Agriculture through Nature Fest.

8. Annual Review of Tree Ordinance and Policy Manual

**Annual Review
of Tree
Ordinance and
Policy Manual**

There has been no time for review as of yet, this will be happening later in the season. To be tabled for the next Tree Commission meeting.

9. Review of Mission and Goals

**Review of
Mission and
Goals**

Ms. Stevens went over a few of the continuing goals:

- Seminar at the Library
- Forestry Brochure (before first Farmer’s Market)
- Forestry information in the Recreator
- User-friendly link to Forestry on City Website
- Arbor Day at school districts
- School Board member on Tree Commission
- Help plant an estimated 1100 trees offered through grants at Konkel Park
- Continue assistance designing & consulting for the Parks & Recreation Department
- Informational signs on tree walk at Konkel Park
- Keep & help restore wild & native plantings at Konkel Park
- Assist Engineering with Konkel Park’s pond
- Assist Engineering with development of Transmission Trail
- Assist Engineering & Pollinator Committee with development of Bird City, Bee City & Monarch City programs along with Migratory Bird Day at Farmer’s Market
- To plan & update landscape at City Hall to include plantings that are more sustainable

10. Budget Plans and Requests

Budget Plans and Requests

Budgeting for Forestry is remaining the same. Ms. Stevens mentioned that when the Tree Commission first started they had a budget of \$2,500.00 and \$0.50 per capita. Mr. Fermenich stated that they currently have \$0.25 per capita for GENTR1, which in this current market assists in funding for about 32-33 trees. The budget for forestry has decreased over time and some of those expenses have fallen on the DPW through their labor and equipment budgets. Mr. Fermenich with the assistance of Engineering has been working around this with the help of grants to supplement tree plantings. Overall, Forestry has done a really good job of reforesting the city. Mr. Fermenich mentioned that they cannot afford to lose any more of the budget and a big part of the reason why people choose to move to Greenfield is because it's a green place to live.

11. Discussion and decision regarding Nature Fest Raptor Exhibit Funding in the amount of \$395.00

Discussion and decision regarding Nature Fest Raptor Exhibit Funding in the amount of \$395.00

Moved by: Rob Hansen
Seconded by: Terry Krell
All in favor, unanimous.

12. 2023 Planting Contract

2023 Planting Contract

The planting for this year is strictly coming out of GENTR1, Mr. Fermenich has already started a list for resident requests. There is a verbal agreement with the contractor to provide trees at last year's prices. There is no specific plan at this time, but will come together over the course of the Summer.

13. Summer Program

Summer Program

Plantings are now happening in Fall, which has been working better for the trees.

14. Suggested date and discussion items for next meetings

Suggested Date and Discussion for Next Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Thursday July 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

15. Adjournment

Adjournment

Moved by: Rob Hansen
Seconded by: Terry Krell
At: 8:09pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Baumgardner

Clerk/Typist

Division of Public Works

Date distributed: 6/12/2023