



TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Minutes are not official until formally approved by the Tree Commission at the next scheduled meeting.

- 1. Joan Stevens, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm. **Meeting called to order at 6:41 pm**

Roll Call:	Joan Stevens	Present
	Ald. Bruce Bailey	Present
	Terry Krell	Present
	Randy Esch	Present
	Dennis Fermenich	Present
	Andrew Drzewiecki	Excused
	Robert Hansen	Present

- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes **Approval of 5-11-2023 Minutes**

It was moved by Robert Hansen seconded by Bruce Bailey to approve the May 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Aldermanic Report **Aldermanic Report**

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Fermenich attended the Honey Creek Restoration Project ribbon cutting. He stated that it was great to be able to walk through the area and see all the work that was done along all the trees that have been planted. It did appear that notification of the event was not sent out to everyone. Mr. Fermenich added that there were 850 trees planted all together and he will be meeting with Jeff Katz regarding arrangement for more plantings in Konkel Park.

Mr. Bailey reports that the shared revenue came through on the budget that included additional funding which was approved by the Governor.

- 4 Superintendent of Public Works Report **Superintendent of Public Works Report**

Mr. Esch reports that DPW completed the planting beds at the Powerline Trail Rest Stop near the intersection of South 68th Street and West Forest Home Avenue. They planted perennial grasses along the creek and assembled and installed bike racks. Mr. Fermenich added that there were 5 serviceberry trees planted in the widened median on South 68th Street just south of West Forest Home Avenue.

DPW responded to minor storm damage consisting of picking up tree branches in various areas of the city. They have also been working on pruning and sight line clearing. DPW carried out several tree removals at Creekwood Park for hazard risk and near South 43rd Street and West Loomis Road for the future sidewalk project

starting within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Fermenich asked for Mr. Esch to keep him updated on any future tree plantings that could be completed in that area.

Mr. Esch informed that Mr. Fermenich is working on a plan for the City Hall Landscaping Project and tree planting at the south entrance of Konkel Park.

5. Chair Report

Chair Report

Ms. Stevens started out by welcoming Mr. Esch as the new Public Works Superintendent.

She sent out all the thank you letters for the Arbor Day tree donors as well as to DPW, the Fire Commission, Starbucks, and others who took part in Arbor Day.

Ms. Stevens mentioned that she sent out notices and invitations to various people for the City Hall Sculpture unveiling. The Mayor presented a proclamation to make it Joan Steven's Day and the Beautification Committee presented her with an award for the project. Ms. Stevens was incredibly honored by these acts of recognition, but remarked that this event was about the sculpture. She suggested for the Tree Commission members to take a drive over to City Hall in the evening in order to get a better view of the sculpture with illumination.

Ms. Stevens reports that she asked the Greenfield Beautification members to volunteer for Nature Fest on August 27th. She asked Mr. Fermenich to provide them with jobs and scheduling as needed.

Ms. Stevens stated that there is a garden tour at Radler's Rosarium this Saturday, July 15th. This weekend's tour is a fundraising event taken on by the Beautification Committee. They have been participating in this annually since 2006 which has helped to fund many projects around the city such as the City Hall sculpture, \$400.00 donation and sculpture for the Library, a mural in the children's room at the Library, and a sculpture on the wall outside of the Community Center. Members of the committee have been passing out flyers the past two Sunday's Farmer's Markets to spread the word. Ms. Stevens passed out flyers to the Tree Commission members. This is the most comprehensive and beautiful garden that she has ever seen throughout Milwaukee County. Ms. Stevens urged for the members to attend and to inform others about the garden tours. There are over 1,000 roses hybridizing, although they are not quite at peak yet. Ms. Stevens stated that Mr. Radler has taken all of the flowers he could find and labeled each of them with common names and their botanical names. Mr. Fermenich wanted to add that Mr. Radler is a personal friend who was the Director of Boerner Botanical Gardens. He mentioned that Mr. Radler wanted all of his plants labeled and taken care of in a that he just didn't have the funding or ability to do through the parks system. Mr. Fermenich stated that the labels are always accurate, always present and everything is maintained at a high standard. This phenomenal garden consists of various flowers, tiled paths, sculptures, large ponds and one even containing fish. They have employees staffed during the tours, which are all very friendly, to assist visitors with any questions. Every year there are new things to see and Ms. Stevens highly recommends starting out at the observatory tower in the garden shed for a panoramic view of the property. The tour is from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and ticket

sales will be closing out at 11:30 am. Radler's Rosarium will also be raffling off 2 knockout roses for the tour this Saturday.

6. City Forester's Report

**City Forester's
Report**

The second annual Forestry Nature Fest will be held on Sunday, August 27th at Greenfield's Farmer's Market from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mr. Fermenich reports that with last year being the first Nature Fest it was relatively small. This consisted of about 8 tables of displays for the Zoological Society, Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Fermenich's friend Michael the Seed Man, a monarch display, free face painting for the kids, environmental art, the Hoo's Woods Raptor Exhibit and an Urban Wildlife specialist. He is expecting more booths at 2023's Nature Fest. Some of the potential booths include Wehr Nature Center, Master Gardeners, Department of Agriculture, photo booth with a monarch and bird cut-out photo prop, a butterfly society, live beehive, face painting, environmental art and a spotted lanternfly cut-out photo prop. Mr. Fermenich offered a booth for the Beautification Committee and may be seeing attendance from MMSD and Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control. Mr. Fermenich mentioned that there will also be various giveaways during the fest as well. He has arranged to borrow a large top tent from the Library and DPW offered to assist with set up. He would like for the tent to be open on 3 sides similar to the set up at the DPW Expo to allow for inclusivity. Mr. Fermenich is actively working on a list of table and chair needs with Renee Rollman. Mr. Fermenich stated that Mr. Krell will be helping out with the Hoo's Woods exhibit. He is in need of 1 to 2 more volunteers for Nature Fest. Mr. Hansen added that it is on his schedule and he was planning to be available during the full time of the fest. Mr. Fermenich is to inform Mr. Hansen of his scheduling needs. Mr. Fermenich is planning on arriving at 8:30 am to ensure everything is set up in time for the start of the event. The goal with Forestry Nature Fest is to host a festival atmosphere with environmental education about beautification and gaining an understanding of the urban environment we live in. There will be a guided tour of the Honey Creek Restoration Project with Biologist Nick Connor, the designer of the project. The sign-up sheet will be located at Mr. Fermenich's booth. Ms. Stevens stated that she can volunteer from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm to help promote the tour.

Mr. Fermenich reported that the Whitnall Forest team wrapped up planting around two weeks ago. The contractor bid for 240 trees and they ended up with around 250 trees. This was larger than originally planned and everyone on the project went above and beyond what was expected. MMSD was very appreciative of the collaborative efforts on the project. They are showing interest in producing a luminary video to showcase the work done. The Whitnall School District utilizes the forest extensively for classes. It is well signed, well stocked with native plant material, walking paths, and the community benefits from it. Mr. Fermenich confirmed receipt of communication from the forest team with Mr. Esch regarding a few culverts near the Whitnall Forest. DPW will be going out to assess these within the next week.

7. 2024 Forestry Grant Application

**2024 Forestry
Grant
Application**

Mr. Fermenich is currently working on the planning stages for the grant application. The period just opened on July 1st and is due by October 1st. He is going to be asking for a lot of the same things as last year and will be requesting DPW projected needs

for outside contractor work. Mr. Fermenich will be including assistance for the tree walk in Konkel Park. He has been in discussion with Scott Jaquish regarding placement of additional trees and Ms. Rollman has been researching costs for new signage for that area. Mr. Fermenich will also be asking for assistance with ash tree replacements in city right-of-ways. He is nearing the completion of the ash treatment list and the next steps are to create the spreadsheets containing the details. Mr. Fermenich should be able to pass this on to DPW around the end of August or beginning of September. The most substantial ash tree areas at this time include South 31st Street and West Kimberly Avenue, South 36th Street and West Cold Spring Road, West Howard Avenue, and West Cold Spring Road. That being said, the Department of Natural Resources is in strong support of the tree walk and in efforts for eliminating emerald ash borer.

Mr. Fermenich mentioned that Department of Natural Resources Regional Coordinator, Kim Sebastian will be retiring soon. There is no replacement for her at this time, but he is hoping to send her a copy of the grant application for review to ensure that everything will be up to standard. Mr. Hansen suggested for Mr. Fermenich to reach out and obtain letters of recommendation from local representatives in support of greener Greenfield initiatives. Ms. Stevens wanted to add in that Ms. Sebastian has taken a large part over the life of the Tree Commission Committee. When Ms. Stevens was starting out and came up with the plan to host an Arbor Day, Ms. Sebastian assisted by holding a tree planting presentation at City Hall. She also helped out a lot when it came to implementing tree ordinances for the committee and has been to almost every single Greenfield Arbor Day. Mr. Fermenich and Ms. Stevens will collect further details on her retirement plans so the Tree Commission can put something together in appreciation for her support over the years.

8. Budget Plans and Requests for 2024

See Aldermanic Report.

**Budget Plans
and Request
for 2024**

9. Review of 2022 goals and plan goals for 2024

Tabled for next meeting.

**Review of 2022
goals and plan
goals for 2024**

10. Annual Review of Tree Ordinance and Policy Manual

Tabled for next meeting.

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

It was moved by Robert Hansen, seconded by Terry Krell to table #9 and #10 of this agenda for the September 14, 2023 Tree Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Suggested date and discussion items for next meetings

**Suggested Date
and Discussion
for Next
Meetings**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 14th at 6:30pm.

Discussion items for next meeting:

- (#9) Review of 2022 goals and plan goals for 2024
- (#10) Annual Review of Tree Ordinance and Policy Manual
- (#7) 2024 Forestry Grant Application

Additional end of meeting notes:

- ◇ Mr. Bailey stated that Andrew Drzewiecki has been sworn in as a Citizen Member of the Tree Commission Committee at the Common Council meeting.
- ◇ Ms. Stevens to call Jennifer in the Clerk's Office to add Adjunct Member Lauren Boos to the Common Council Agenda for membership approval.
- ◇ Mr. Fermenich had interest from another potential Adjunct Member who is a Greenfield resident and an Arborist.

12. Adjournment

Adjournment

It was moved by Robert Hansen, seconded by Terry Krell to adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 7:43pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Baumgardner
Clerk Typist
Division of Public Works
Date distributed: 7-20-2023