



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 6:33 pm. **Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm**

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

- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes **Approval of 7-13-2023 Minutes**
It was moved by Bruce Bailey seconded by Terry Krell to approve the July 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Aldermanic Report **Aldermanic Report**

Mr. Bailey stated that Lauren was approved as an Adjunct Member at the Common Council meeting.

The budgets for DPW and Tree Commission are the same as last year, which means Tree Commission is still at the \$3,000.00 for their budget.

Ms. Stevens asked about any major projects regarding trees, there was nothing noted. Mr. Fermenich inquired about the status of West Layton Avenue from South 27th Street to West Loomis Road. He mentioned that they held off of trees in that area in hopes that the county would participate in taking care of the north side of the road, but Mr. Bailey stated that the county does not want to plant anything there.

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

Mr. Esch reports that the crews have been working on sight line clearing, mostly around street lights and street signs. DPW has completed the planting bed in front of City Hall located along the building between the two entrances by the flag poles. They have also completed planting trees and shrubs in between outcropping stone at the south entrance of Konkel Park and started working on a planting bed by the flag pole at Konkel Park. This entails a block border to be installed along with plant material in that border. DPW is also removing the current mulch bed and cutting down the former city Christmas tree. The city is purchasing a new concolor fir tree

for replacement. Mr. Fermenich added that the replacement tree will be about 20 feet tall and will require significant watering and maintenance once planted. This is being purchased from Trees on the Move in Cedarburg.

Mr. Esch mentioned that they contracted Russ's Tree Service for a complicated tree removal at Wild Cat Creek near South 109th Street and West Cold Spring Road. The job was in a tight space and required specialized tools that DPW just doesn't have the resources for.

DPW did recently purchase an Arborjet soil injector to use for tree treatments, prior to this they had been using a makeshift injector. The new injector is able to deliver precise measurements of treatment down to the milliliter. DPW has already used it to treat 40 oak trees that had come down with chlorosis.

5. Chair Report

Chair Report

Ms. Stevens invited guest Kyle Krolicki to speak about his background. Mr. Krolicki stated that he got into arboriculture about 10 years ago. He studied in a two-year program at Milwaukee Area Technical College for horticulture. He then went on to intern at the City of West Allis Forestry Department for a summer, mainly injecting ash trees. Mr. Krolicki then procured a job at Buckley Tree Care Company for 3.5 years as a Production Arborist. He progressed onto the City of Racine Forestry Department for 2.5 years and planted roots at the City of Greenfield DPW where he has been for the past 4 years. Mr. Esch made mention that Mr. Krolicki is also a Certified Arborist. Ms. Stevens welcomed Mr. Krolicki to join the Tree Commission as an adjunct member and informed him of the next steps if he wishes to proceed. Ms. Stevens would still like a member of the Whitnall School Board to come to the Tree Commission meetings as well. She will be contacting the Curriculum Director and will plan to meet with the Superintendent regarding this. Ms. Stevens also purchased some new name tags for Ms. Boos and Mr. Hansen.

She commended Mr. Fermenich on a job well done with Forestry Nature Fest and forest development at the Whitnall School Forest. Ms. Stevens also thanked the Tree Commission members for their assistance. She met with Mr. Fermenich yesterday to plan projects for the September agenda and to explore the ideas for programs they are hoping establish for 2024.

6. City Forester's Report

City Forester's Report

Mr. Fermenich reported a successful Forestry Nature Fest. There were about 17 booths concerning all aspects of environmental education. This was a good opportunity to make solid connections with groups such as the Master Gardeners, Wehr Nature Center, the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection, MMSD and the Department of Natural Resources. Each of these groups are looking to expand their community outreach and offered to assist with any continuing projects. Mr. Fermenich also connected with Principal Boyd from Edgewood Elementary and Leslie, an Environmental Science Teacher, from the High School. He has been working with the Pollinator Committee who just received an award of 192 native perennials from the World Wildlife Federation. Mr. Fermenich wants to get together with both of the schools to plant some perennials at the outdoor classroom at Konkel Park. He thinks this would be a good way to get the

students acquainted with use of the space. Mr. Fermenich is going to be in communications with MMSD to hold a presentation for the High School AP Biology class at the outdoor classroom.

Mr. Fermenich received a Green Luminary Award from MMSD for the Whitnall High School Forest project this past Monday. The MMSD representative appreciated the community outreach and stated interest in cooperating with Mr. Fermenich and the City of Greenfield for any significant future projects.

Mr. Fermenich has a couple projects in the early stages on his mind where MMSD could collaborate. He has spoken with Jeff Katz in regard to completing the tree planting on South 124th Street and West Howard Avenue. He is looking to turn the area into a miniature forest consisting of a whole ecosystem, not just trees. Mr. Fermenich is going to be working with MIAD graduates to design the plans for this since they need community service hours and are looking for projects to participate in. Mr. Fermenich also mentioned putting in a pedestrian walkway by Creekwood Park. Currently, there is a section of right of way that connects to the park that goes out to West Edgerton Avenue which is made up of turf and is maintained by the city. He would like for the path to go from the dead end of South Bartel Drive and West Holmes Avenue and to connect to the existing path out to West Loomis Road. Mr. Fermenich stated that there is room for about a 3/4 acre forest and 1/3 acre prairie in this area.

Mr. Fermenich has been working with the Parks Department planting 8 oak trees and 9 arbor vitae to fill gaps along the tree walk in Konkel Park. They are also looking for screening to cover their 50 foot garage fencing expansion. Mr. Fermenich set out the markings today and is hoping to get started on the project with Dan Larsen Landscaping the day after the DPW Expo.

7. 2024 Arbor Day Plans

2024 Arbor Day Plans

Ms. Stevens is exploring the possibility of changing the date for Arbor Day. Last year there was overlap with prom and little league, so in order to allow for greater student participation it would work out best to hold it on a different day. She is hoping to move it to the second Saturday in May. The date change would not be official until Ms. Stevens speaks with both the Whitnall and Greenfield School Representatives. She is also going to talk to the schools about getting more students to attend Arbor Day including the ROTC. As always, the Tree Commission members are invited to attend.

Mr. Fermenich stated they have held the school Arbor Day plantings for the last two years along with the community Arbor Day. This entails a single planting at one of the Greenfield schools with locations changing from year to year. In 2023, they planted an oak tree at Edgewood Elementary and it has been awhile since a planting was held at Elmdale Elementary or Maple Grove Elementary. Mr. Fermenich will reach out to the schools to determine the location. He would like to continue the collaboration with Whitnall School District for planting on the north side of their walkway. He would also like to encourage them to provide funding for the materials since DPW is providing labor and time at no cost. The date for the schools Arbor Day will remain flexible and is still being planned for during the week either shortly before or after the community Arbor Day.

Mr. Fermenich stated that there is a need for 12 trees for the 2024 community Arbor Day. There should be a goal to utilize these Arbor Day plans to either finish existing projects or create new projects. The main goal is to only put trees where they are necessary. With that being said, Mr. Fermenich thinks it would be ideal for the 12 trees to be planted on the South 51st Street entrance at Konkel Park on each side of the road in the approach. He brought up that it would be a good opportunity to have the Pollinator Committee plant perennials around the park sign at that time as well. Mr. Fermenich stated that they should have enough funding for the Arbor Day trees. He also mentioned that a representative from Festival Foods who was at the South 68th Street and West Forest Home Avenue rest stop ribbon cutting offered additional assistance in community projects. Mr. Fermenich said that Festival Foods will need to be contacted this Fall in order to secure a donation in time, he will be reaching out to them. Ms. Stevens has reached out in years past for assistance from Meijer, House of Harley and Penny Mustard for the Arbor Day event.

8. 2024 Street Tree Planting Plans

**2024 Street
Tree Planting
Plans**

Mr. Fermenich spoke with Jeff Katz regarding the GENTR1 budget. There is enough to cover the plantings of 38-40 trees for 2023 which will go to vacant areas that were hit by cars, ash removals and toward replacement requests. He is going to be getting the figures together for Engineering by Monday so it can be sent out to bid and hopefully get started in late October. The current plan does not include all of the vacancies, but they have made good progress over the last 20 years. The vacancies went down from 3,000 spaces to 673 spaces left to fill. Around 1/3 of the current vacancies do not necessarily need plantings as the areas have adapted and changed, but there still are around 400 that could be put to use throughout the city.

Through MMSD Green Solutions, the Engineering Department and Mr. Fermenich have been able to secure a significant number of trees for the garage planting on the southwest corner of the Konkel Park and for a couple other sparse areas.

9. 2024 Forestry Grant Application

**2024 Forestry
Grant
Application**

Mr. Fermenich is actively working on the grant application. He is looking to get additional funding for Forestry Nature Fest, which counts towards the growth award. He will be needing flags for the tent entrances and will need about \$300.00 for informational handouts, printing and giveaways for multiple events. DPW put a significant amount of labor in for set-up and take down for Nature Fest, which amounted to about \$1,800.00, so that will also be included in the application. This grant allows for a 50/50 match which would help alleviate that cost for labor.

Mr. Fermenich will also be asking for \$20,000.00 in outside contractor funds to assist in the more complex forestry needs.

He would like to include 12 trees for the back of the Konkel Park walkway along with signage to go with those for educational purposes. Mr. Fermenich will be requesting an additional 12 trees to put in the ash-heavy neighborhoods for replacements. Mr. Fermenich expects to claim for the entire \$50,000.00 allocation. With the 50/50 match, the City of Greenfield can be reimbursed for up to \$25,000.00 in costs towards these community projects.

Due to the encouragement from Rob Hansen, Mr. Fermenich is going to be working on obtaining letters of support for the grant application from 2 community supervisors and Mayor Neitzke.

10. Review of 2022 Goals and Plan Goals for 2024

**Review of 2022
Goals and Plan
Goals for 2024**

- Maintain Tree City/Arbor Day Foundation/Growth Award status
- Co-sponsor Arbor Day with the Beautification Committee
- Adopt a Street Tree Program
 - Unfortunately, there was not enough time this year.
- Integrated pest management
 - There was no grant awarded/no time for it this year.
- Partner with the Pollinator Committee in Less Mow May
 - Many residents signed up for this with good intent. The program helped aid in Code Enforcement appropriate response and it was still regulated by the Ordinance, so there were no major issues.
- Complete City Hall landscaping
- Hazard tree clean up (ongoing)
- To continue to provide inspection services for Parks and City Street Trees
 - The communications between Mr. Fermenich and DPW have been very beneficial in committing to this goal.
- To expand programs designed to build communication with the public and create awareness of forestry and tree issues.
- Forestry publicity (event booths, Forestry Nature Fest, Migratory Bird Day, and publications in the Greenfield Recreator.)
- Create a Forestry Brochure
- Direct link on City of Greenfield Homepage
 - There is still more work that needs to be done here with ease of access, but it can be accessed.
- Forestry and Environmental booth at Farmer's Markets manned by the Tree Commission
 - This has been done on a limited basis due to lack of funding.
- Develop a cooperative relationship with Whitnall and Greenfield School Districts to enhance forestry and environmental education
- To provide support for Parks, City Grounds and related programs
- To plant 1,100 trees offered through grants for Konkel Park, Whitnall Forest and City right-of-way
 - There is still more plantings in the works, but they are currently at just under 1,000 trees
- Continue to provide Greenfield Parks Department with design and consulting services for trees and environmental concerns
- Install signs/reestablish tree walk
 - Planned for 2024.
- Assist Engineering in planning of pond
- Assist Engineering in further development of Power Line Trail
 - Second phase of trail planned for 2024.
- Assist Engineering and Pollinator Committee in Bird City, Bee City and Monarch City programs and co-sponsor World Migratory Bird Day
 - There will be about 6-8 tables at the World Migratory Bird Day on Sunday, October 8th 2023. The Zoological Society, Pollinator Committee and Forestry will be in attendance. Mr. Fermenich will has in years past

brought awareness to emerald ash borer and will be bringing awareness to a new invasive species called the spotted lantern fly.

- To assist the Beautification Committee in installation of the City Hall Sculpture and adjusting landscaping as needed

11. Annual Review of Tree Ordinance and Policy Manual

Mr. Fermenich is not quite ready to move forward on this yet. He is going to be talking with Kristi in the City Planning Department to try and change the set up. The tree ordinance and policy manual should be incorporated into the site and development standards and will need to be approved by the City Attorney.

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

12. Suggested date and discussion items for next meetings

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Suggested items (refer to 2022 November Agenda)

- Forestry Grant Award
- Growth Award
- Review Final Goals for 2024

**Suggested Date
and Discussion
for Next
Meetings**

13. Adjournment

It was moved by Bruce Bailey, seconded by Terry Krell to adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 8:01 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting
adjourned at
8:01 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Baumgardner
Clerk Typist
Division of Public Works
Date distributed: 9-20-2023