



Shade Tree Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.
Development & Engineering Annex

Members Present: Amy Banks, Matt Coleman, Dennis Epperson, Jo Benjamin, Milan Blake

Members absent: Will Jones, David May, Jr., John Thomason, Dale Hughes, Tim Henderson

Others in Attendance: Urban Forester Dan Hartman; Parks and Recreation secretary Karen Stovall; Assistant to City Manager Brian Moran

Called Meeting to Order: Matt Coleman called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS

Waive Reading of Minutes:

Minutes were emailed to members prior to the meeting. Milan Blake made a motion to approve the February 27, 2018 meeting minutes. Jo Benjamin seconded the motion. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carries.

Urban Forestry Report:

Dan Hartman gave members his April activity report. Jo Benjamin commented about the number of Memorial Tree applications and Matt Coleman said now would be a good time to run an article in the Banner about that program. Dan stated he wanted to inform Board about a project happening now on Parker Street. Lee University and the City are going to serpentine the entire street and do a plant median down the middle. There are nine existing Elm trees that Dan plans to relocate. Jo Benjamin said this sends the message to Lee that it's their street and they can continue to butcher the crape myrtles.

Dan said he also wanted to give Board a heads up about the project planned around Blythe Bower elementary school. City is applying for a grant. There are going to be sidewalks and a curb put in and Dan had them add a 6-foot wide grass strip between the two so we can tree-line the entire street. The rough count is 175 trees.

Tree Grant:

Brian Moran asked the Board if they could provide a letter of support for a tree grant the City is applying for. Also, he asked if anyone on the Board is interested in serving on the oversight committee that is required in the grant. The trees will be planted around Blythe Bower. Matt Coleman stated he would get Brian a letter. Amy Banks said she would agree to be on the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Board member attendance:

Matt Coleman commented that we are having issues with attendance again this year. Board requirements say you can't miss half of the regularly scheduled meetings in a six-month period. Do we need to meet every other month instead of every month, do we need to take some time off during the summer, do we need to change the time or day of the meeting? After discussion among members, it was decided to try meeting every other month instead of monthly. Matt said he would draft a letter to Board members and send a copy to the Mayor stating this modification and addressing the attendance issue again. We will take next month off and meet next in July. Matt noted that Board had previously discussed being counted as present if you conference call into the meeting, but the City Attorney advised that is not allowed, but someone on the Board could ask Council for that change to happen. Milan Blake noted that when Dennis Epperson gets sworn in, there will be two County Commissioners on Tree Board at that time and anytime two Commissioners are together, the media has to be invited. Matt said it's a discussion Milan and Dennis could have with the Mayor, but it shouldn't be an issue because they are not serving on this Board as Commissioners, they are here as "one community at-large" and "one private developer" that's required by Tree Board regulations. And, the media is invited through the "public notice of all Boards and Committees" that the City Clerk's office publishes each year.

Exit 25:

Amy Banks asked about the plan for the wall at that exit. Dan Hartman stated he hasn't heard anything else about it, but he can't landscape until they put the letters in or whatever they planned to do. Brian Moran said it has to be bid out again.

Reports from members:

Milan Blake stated that at one of the Community meetings, it was mentioned that the rocks on 25th Street, the southwestern look, was going to be changed. Dan Hartman said it's the first he's heard of it.

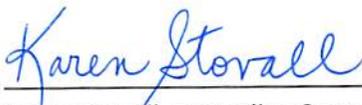
Milan mentioned to Dan that on 25th Street, by the BP station, the Veterans sign is covered by tree growth.

Jo Benjamin asked Dan Hartman about the trees by Kingsway Press, that something different has been put in. Dan said the nursery wouldn't warranty the ones he bought, so Gary Bryant donated these.

Jo asked about the Deer Park entrance on Harle, nothing been done yet with that. Dan Hartman said we are getting ready to redo the entire playground at Deer and all that will be looked at after that is completed. Amy Banks asked if we are losing any trees. Dan said there are three pear trees (one is split in half) being looked at that are by the tennis court that may be removed.

Amy Banks stated on Highland Ave there is a terrific open space that would be great for some trees. She explained the area to Dan Hartman, in the general area of 7th/Highland.

No further business, meeting was adjourned at 12:53pm.



Karen Stovall, Recording Secretary