

Findlay Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of July 2, 2007

Meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Municipal Building Conference Room by Vice-Chair Ed Crawford. Those in attendance were: Brooks Bosse, Ed Crawford, Linda Casey, Mike Jurkiewicz, Rick Kidwell, Cathy Smith, and Mike Sobczyk. Visiting was state forester Stephanie Miller.

Minutes for the meeting of May 7, 2007 were approved.

Reports

Street Dept. – No report.

Engineering Dept. – No report.

City Council – No report.

City Forester – Cathy Smith

Cathy has been working with the Engineering Dept. on sidewalk inspections. The information will be used to adjust the placement of new sidewalks. She has worked with them in the Wilson Vance area on a street upgrade project.

The Street Dept. crews and contractor have been working on a small number of tree removals.

Balance of trees from the 2007 Adopt-A-Tree, planted in the parks/cemetery, are being watered. She also did a radio spot about watering newly planted trees during the drought.

Ash tree inventory has not received much attention due to other projects. Cathy has requested assistance from Shade Tree Commission members. Details will be provided at the next meeting.

Old Business

The budget line item for tree replacement will be addressed in the budget process beginning in Sept./Oct. Likely to be submitted as a five-year plan including tree replacement and Emerald Ash Borer program.

Discussion was held with respect to the memorial tree proposal. Cathy discussed the concept with Jim Rhodes. It was taken into consideration with the Parks and Plats group. It received a lukewarm reception. Discussion was also held with respect to options about the logistics of such a program. Stephanie Miller shared various options that other communities have used for such a program. More discussion will be held with respect to the memorial tree project.

New Business

2007 Adopt-A-Tree applications were distributed to members for the summer inspection follow-up. Inspections should be completed prior to the August meeting. Check elm specimens for insect damage.

Approval for the Gateway Program at the I-75/Rt. 12, Rt. 224 interchanges has been received. Grass planting will be delayed until spring due to drought conditions affecting the nursery stock. Soil preparation and tree plantings will be done this fall.

The selection of officers was conducted. Ed Crawford will be Shade Tree Commission Chair. Linda Casey will assume to position of Vice-Chair. Rick Kidwell will

continue as Secretary. Discussion about “term limits” for commission members was held. Cathy will check with Dave Hackenberg about the wording of the ordinance and terms of members.

At the next meeting, commission members should be prepared to discuss the 2008 and 2009 Adopt-A-Tree programs and species listings. Members are also asked to bring possible species (small, medium, and large) for the 2010 Adopt-A-Tree program.

The Shade Tree Commission needs to fill a vacancy. Members should bring ideas to the next meeting or send ideas to Cathy Smith or Mike Sobczyk.

Next Meeting – August 6th.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kidwell
Secretary