

Findlay Shade Tree Commission

Minutes of October 1, 2007

Meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Municipal Building Conference Room by Chair Ed Crawford. Those in attendance were: Brooks Bosse, Ed Crawford, Linda Casey, Mike Jurkiewicz, Rick Kidwell, Mark Seward, Cathy Smith, and Matt Stoffel. Visiting was Tom Oberhaus from North Branch Nursery.

Minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2007 were approved.

Reports

Street Dept. – Matt Stoffel

Gateway project is underway. Crews have been mulching the planting areas and boring holes for tree /shrub placements. Removal/trimming work continues as time allows. Mulch sales continue on a limited basis.

Engineering Dept. – Mark Seward.

No report.

City Council – No report

City Forester – Cathy Smith

Cathy reminded members about the Northwest Ohio Urban Forestry Seminar. At this time Linda Casey is the only member planning to attend.

The Gateway Project has begun. Soil preparation continues, and tree plantings will be started soon. Small seedlings are being planted now. The larger balled and burlap specimens (Kentucky coffee tree, oak, and hawthorns) will be planted at the end of October. In April the grasses are to be planted. Maintenance of these plantings must be included in the city budget.

The ash tree inventory has been completed. Compilation of the data is underway.

Budgetary discussions continue. There are no firm numbers in place at this time. As previously mentioned, the Gateway Project maintenance must also be built into the budget. Cathy will keep us updated on the budget process and any critical issues as they develop.

There were complaints about the removal of the large oak tree along CR 236. The tree, over 100 years old, was in poor condition. It would have needed to be removed in the future when CR 236 is widened – but was taken down now due to its poor condition.

Old Business

The commission still needs to recommend a member to fill the current vacancy. Cathy will follow up on some of the suggestions.

Discussion was held with respect to the memorial tree proposal. Rick will contact The Community Foundation to see if such a program could be administered through that organization.

New Business

Tom Oberhaus, North Branch Nursery, was present to answer questions with respect to obtaining trees for the Adopt-A-Tree program. He indicated that a blended approach (including the current 3 year pre-ordering system along with at-the-time requests) would be suitable with them. Again, the at-the-time process would more than likely require a higher purchase price depending on the particular species. North Branch would have a listing of available container trees

that could be used for the at-the-time purchases. Spring and fall orders could be processed for those items.

More discussion will be conducted with respect to modifying the Adopt-A-Tree program.

Next Meeting – November 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kidwell
Secretary