

Findlay Shade Tree Commission

Minutes of May 4, 2008

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building Conference Room by Chair Mike Jurkiewicz. Those in attendance were: Brooks Bosse, Linda Casey, Ed Crawford, Bruce Hardy, Mike Jurkiewicz, Bill Malloy, Deb Seng, Mark Steward, and Matt Stoffel. Guests were Mr. Robert McCall, OSU Extension Office.

Minutes for the meeting of April 6 , 2008 were approved.

Reports

A brief discussion was held regarding Rick Kidwell's concern about the River Birch and Serviceberry Adopt-A-Trees having multiple trunks. North Branch Nursery will be advised that we want single trunk species with the exception of the River Birch.

Also discussed was close proximity to property lines of the trees adopted by Hunter's Creek residents. Mark reported that while the road expansion is planned, funding is not yet available. Mike J. and Linda C. reported that residents were advised that in the event the road construction takes place, the trees may need to be removed.

Street Dept. – Matt Stoffel

Matt reported they are catching up on tree and stump removals. Ash trees are showing signs of disease and those will be removed as needed.

The Adopt-A-Tree program went well. (more discussion held later).

Jackie Berger again used monies she found on the street to purchase an Adopt-A-Tree for the City. Due to a health issue, she was unable to plant the tree, so the City will help by planting the tree in Riverside Park.

The Arbor Day tree planting went well at Jefferson Primary. Matt's daughter has been given the responsibility for watering the tree. The Mayor and Rick Kidwell attended the event.

Engineering Dept. – Mark Steward

Mark stated that the work on Martin Luther King Boulevard is on-going. Lincoln Street bids will go out the week of May 4. Cathy Smith has been hired as a consultant on the project.

City Council – Deb Seng

Deb reported that there were no concerns from council.

Service Director – Bruce Hardy

Bruce had nothing new to report.

Old Business

The Adopt-A-Tree program was reviewed. Citizens adopted 70 trees and four went to the City, including one to the Cube in appreciation for letting us use the facility to distribute the trees. Next year, distribution will take place from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. The assessment of taxes caused some difficulty. It was agreed that the applications need to be updated to reflect the additional tax burden. Matt will check with the State Auditor to determine if there is a way to avoid taxing by considering the \$20 fee as a donation. Mike J. is to send a thank you note to Hancor for their donation of the tile provided with the adopted trees. Summer site evaluations will be distributed at the next meeting in August.

Stephanie Miller, ODNR, sent photos of Blue Rock where the Emerald Ash Borer has decimated a tree. Concern was expressed that the infestation is getting here quickly. Matt will check on the tree to determine whether it needs to be taken down.

New Business

Robert McCall, OSU Extension Agent, introduced a new program OSU is offering, "Why Trees Matter." Part of the program includes "I-Tree," an analysis program for determining the monetary benefits of trees. He wants to partner with the Shade Tree Commission by providing volunteer training of the public or the Commission of inventorying, plant identification, tree care, evaluating trees and/or research. Linda C. moved to evaluate the program and work with OSU on a September education program. Bill M. seconded the motion, which passed. It was also suggested that Mr. McCall contact Stephanie Miller about holding training for area Tree City members.

Lammers wants to remove three trees on W. Main Cross and replace them, all at his expense. The trees are blocking his outdoor advertising. Mike J. will evaluate the trees and recommend a species to replace them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next Meeting - August 3, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Casey