

MINUTES OF TREE COMMISSION MEETING----AUGUST 24, 2023



Sweet Gum tree

The August 24, 2023 Tree Board meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM by Secretary Stan Adkins. The meeting was held in the City Council chambers on the second floor of City Hall [520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.]

Members present included Stan Adkins, Kent Macy, Brian Nordin, Pete Frey, Cynthia Nichols, and Marissa Grant. Also present was C. J. Applegate, Superintendent for Parks and Facilities Maintenance and guest Julia Ehret.

The minutes of the July 27, 2023 Tree Board meeting were approved as printed on a motion by Cynthia Nichols as seconded by Brian Nordin. Vote: 6-0

OLD BUSINESS

It was reported by Adkins that the high school staff plan to plant trees during the month of October,. Dates have not been set. Approximately 30 trees will be ordered. The role of the Tree Board in the plantings has not been determined. Most of the tree species and planting sites were recommended by members of the Tree Board.

Lisa Strong- McCormick, Girl Scout Troop Leader will meet with her leaders to find a date in October for continuing their partnership with the Tree Board in planting trees.

There is nothing new to report concerning tree and shrub planting at the new Linder Sports Complex.

Adkins presented the recommendation that a tree at 13th and Monroe be declared a hazardous tree and therefore be removed by the City. Cynthia Nichols moved the recommendation as seconded by Kent Macy. The recommendation will be provided to C. J. for potential tree removal.

The new Habitat home owner, Holly Phillips has requested the planting of a pink dogwood at their home. The address is 331 N. 7th Street. Discussion followed about the possibility of a second larger tree to provide shade for the home. Kent Macy and Adkins will attempt to meet with the home owner on a possible planting site and tree species.

The Tree Board discussed a memorial for Larry Shobe to be placed at the Whiteside Gardens. Douglas Hart will plant a tree and engrave a plaque for Larry. The cost would be \$200 plus the cost of the tree. Douglas Hart would plant the tree. Following discussion, Adkins will check to see if the plaque could be placed next to an existing tree. The concern was the Tree Board is providing a tree or two for Habitat and also 3-4 trees for the Girl scouts.

NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested by Cynthia Nichols that the Tree Board take some time to tour the trees the Board has donated in the past few years to have an idea of the impact the trees have on their surroundings. It was thought that rather than a group tour, that a list could be prepared and individual members could take a driving tour to monitor Tree Board donated trees. Adkins will prepare a list.

Our community was hit by 80 mph winds in June which caused the loss of several trees within the community. Also, EAB is continuing to take its toll on community trees. There was voiced a need for the Tree Board to provide our community with recommendations on planting “the right tree for the right place.” A workshop at the Public Library would seem to be more feasible in the spring.

The Tree Board discussed strategies on getting recommendations out this fall/winter to the public through the City web site. The current Tree Board web site within the City web site is hard to navigate.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Brian Nordin as seconded by Pete Frey.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stan Adkins, Secretary

NOTE: The next meeting will be Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 8:00 AM in the second floor conference room in City Hall at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.

