

City of Ladue- Beautification, Open Space and Tree Advisory Committee
June 24, 2022
Via Zoom Meetings

Members present

Laure Hullverson, Pat Steiner, and Nancy Ylvisaker

Others present

Director of Public Works Anne Lamitola; City Arborist Sean Seed; Public Works Specialist Ashley Quinn, and Councilman John Howell

Chairperson Laure Hullverson called the meeting to order.

Agenda and Minutes Approval

Pat made a motion to approve the meeting agenda and the April 8, 2022 meeting minutes. Nancy seconded the motion to approve. All voted in favor and the agenda and minutes were approved.

Public Forum

Councilman John Howell was present to address the committee with regards to the landscape ordinance, Ch. 102 as it relates to tree removals and replanting. Specific projects in Ladue had had removals of quite a lot of trees along City right of ways that create a large visual impact. Councilman Howell suggested that the threshold for permits being reviewed by someone besides the City Arborist be set at 5 or more trees or when any trees are proposed to be removed along a City right of way or potentially on any project. Having the BOSTA committee advise on those removal requests would create another layer of input rather than solely putting the onus on the City Arborist. A discussion ensued about the threshold for when this additional review is required, whether trustee approvals would be required for a tree removal permit and the need for checks and balances on large scale removals. Sean made the suggestion that any trees removed without a permit automatically require a tree replacement.

After discussion it was decided that a BOSTA work session would be scheduled to review wording changes to the ordinance so that staff had time to find out from the City Attorney what enforcement options we have, what we can require when a permit is not obtained first, and if fines are able to be enforced. That work session will take place on August 23, 2022.

Other Matters Deemed Appropriate

Anne provided an update on the trail alignment for Deer Creek Preserve. City staff would be reviewing the proposed plan for storm water and drainage. The plans will need MSD approval. Phase I of implementation would only develop one parking area with 8 spots. The implementation of the first phase of work needs to be complete by July 1, 2023. Ideally, bidding for the work would be posted in fall of 2022 with implementation to start in early 2023.

Rodes Park funding will be utilized for the pedestrian bridge. Staff has work orders for the design that will need to be reviewed. This portion of the master plan implementation will require stream bank stabilization along with the bridge construction. Funding allocations would be for design in 2022 and implementation in 2023.

There were two Living Legacy applications for the committee to review. Both applications for tree plantings at the Deer Creek Preserve were approved unanimously. The applicants would be notified of approval with planting to be scheduled after Deer Creek Preserve areas were developed. Sean will consult with applicant on their final tree species selection.

A discussion ensued about sidewalks and shared use paths.

A discussion ensued about the replacement fencing at Tilles Park. The Public Works Committee discussed this topic with representatives from St. Louis County Parks Department. A chain link fence replacement is proposed. The BOSTA Committee was in agreement with the Public Works Committee that a fence meeting Ladue Zoning Code would be more desirable. The Committee would be open to sending a letter of opposition to the use of the chain link fence.

The next meeting will be the work session August 23, 2022 at 7:30 am.

Laure made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Pat. The meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laure Hullverson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Laure Hullverson, Chairperson