

## **City of Ladue- Beautification, Open Space and Tree Advisory Committee**

**August 10, 2023**

### **Ladue Police Department Conference room and via Zoom Meetings**

#### **Members present**

Nancy Ylvisaker, Brook Palanca, Elliot Dole, Beverly Tucker-Knight and Heidi Reed

#### **Others present**

Director of Public Works Anne Lamitola; City Arborist Sean Seed; Public Works Specialist Ashley Quinn, and Code Enforcement Officer Jerry Skubic.

#### **Adoption of agenda and minutes**

Nancy called for a motion to approve the August 10th agenda and the minutes from the May 11th meeting. Heidi made a motion to approve, Elliot seconded the motion. All voted aye.

#### **Tree removal permits**

**26 Rio Vista** – Sean gave his report that they were requesting to remove one, 48” Shingle Oak and one, 30” Black Cherry. These require review by BOSTA because they are considered landmark trees. Tree replacement will not be required.

Jesse Knoll, Hansen’s Tree Service, was present to discuss the application. The single oak poses a risk to electrical feeder wires, transformer, and communication lines, as well as potential to strike residential structures if a failure should occur. The black cherry appears to have a fungal infection with moderate to heavy thinning of the upper crown. After a discussion of the permit, Nancy made a motion to recommend approval of the tree removals, seconded by Beverly. All voted in favor.

**23 Clermont Ln** – Sean gave his report that they were requesting the removal of eight trees; four white pines with 12”, 12”, 12”, and 15” calipers, two hemlocks with 10” and 11” calipers, one hornbeam with an 11” caliper, and one Norway spruce with a 13” caliper. The reason for the request is that the trees are over mature for the site and new landscaping is to be installed. Tree replacements are required and the proposal was to plant four, 6” caliper sugar maples and four, 6” caliper southern magnolias.

After a discussion of the permit, Nancy made a motion to recommend approval of the tree removals, seconded by Brook. All voted in favor.

A committee discussion ensued about whether or not certain permits can be approved at staff level only. More discussion on this topic would take place at future meetings.

#### **Other Matters Deemed Appropriate**

Anne provided an update on the Deer Creek Preserve. The mobilization of Ideal Landscape has been delayed. MSD has to complete the sanitary sewer and connections. We are hoping that work can start the week of August 28<sup>th</sup> with the bulk of the work to be completed by the end of the year.

After the last BOSTA meeting, Ashley did some research into how other municipalities handle tree removal permitting. Webster Groves requires a permit, Town & Country has tree protection plan requirements and removal requirements when in conjunction with development permits, Kirkwood

Creve Coeur, Olivette, Frontenac, Clayton and Chesterfield do not require a permit for removal of a tree on private property.

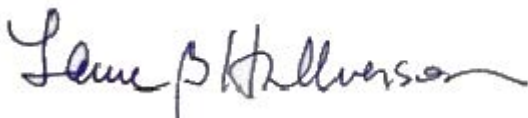
Tim Gamma presented some tree removal permit issues that he identified. He feels there is lack of community education about the tree ordinance and the need for permits for removals, especially for smaller tree companies that are not working regularly in Ladue. He discussed some of the various tree species that he thinks should be exempt from getting permits such as Mulberry, Elm and Ash trees. Mulberry are “weedy trees” that should be eradicated, Elms are all subject to dying from Dutch Elm disease and Ash trees are all going to die unless treated for Emerald Ash Borer. They pose safety issues for those removals if they are left until they are 60% dead because someone has to climb them to cut it down and they pose fall risks to tree professionals. It would be better to have them removed before they are at least 60% dead and get a new tree planted that has longevity. He also stated that requiring subdivision trustee review and approval seemed to be overkill and further slows down the process for residents wishing to remove potentially hazardous and unwanted trees. Discussion ensued on some revisions that might be needed to streamline the permit process to make it easier for both staff and residents.

(Brook and Beverly had to leave the meeting at 8:30am)

The honeysuckle hack was scheduled for Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. The location was tentatively Rodes Park because of the ongoing work in Deer Creek Preserve. We would finalize the location closer to the time we would send out flyers for the event.

The next meeting would tentatively be 9/14/2023 at 7:30 am if there were tree removal applications.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Elliot. All voted aye in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laure Hullverson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Laure Hullverson, Chairperson