

**City of Ladue- Beautification, Open Space and Tree Advisory Committee  
September 14, 2023**

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

**Members present**

Laure Hullverson, 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**

Laure called for a motion to approve the September 14th agenda and the minutes from the August 10th meeting. Heidi made a motion to approve, Beverly seconded the motion. All voted aye.

**Public Comment**

None

**Tree removal permits**

**500 S. Warson** – Sean reported that the permit was requesting approval for the removal of 17 trees which had already been removed prior to obtaining a permit. This permit would require tree replacements. The reason for the removals was that many were dead or dying. The applicant was able to show proof of 9 trees as dead/dying which would leave 8 trees to be replaced with a caliper of at least 6" or 16 trees with a caliper of at least 3". The applicant would like to reduce the replacement requirement by 25% by paying into the tree fund. The resident plans to plant many trees on the property over the next 2-3 years once an outbuilding project on the property is completed. The main house is currently under renovation. They provided a replacement plan meeting the requirements of the ordinance. After a discussion of the facts, Heidi made a motion to approve the removal permit and the replacement plan as submitted, seconded by Nancy. All voted "aye" in favor and the permit was approved.

**Other Matters Deemed Appropriate**

In response to Tim Gamma's presentation at the previous meeting, a discussion followed regarding changes to the tree removal permit process. Tim Gamma, owner of Gamma Tree, felt that the removal of a landmark tree being required to come to BOSTA for review added undue time and seemed overly restrictive. After a discussion of the process Laure made a motion to recommend amending the ordinance to allow a permit for the removal of one landmark tree to be reviewed and approved by Sean Seed, City Arborist. Heidi seconded the motion, all voted "aye" in favor and the motion passed.

Another item that Tim Gamma shared information and perspective on was the restrictiveness and danger for requiring certain invasive trees to need permits for removal or to have to be considered dead before it can be removed. This posed a safety risk because certain trees are very dangerous to climb once they are dead enough to not need a permit. The trees in question were mostly Ash trees, Tree of Heaven, Mulberry and Callery Pear. After a discussion of the information provided Elliot made a motion

to recommend amending the ordinance to allow for removals of Ash trees, Tree of Heaven, Mulberry and Callery pear to be removed without requiring a tree removal permit. The motion was seconded by Heidi, all voted "aye" in favor and the motion was passed.

Anne stated that the ordinance revisions would go before City Council at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The honeysuckle hack was scheduled for Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Ashley would prepare a flyer for the October meeting packet.

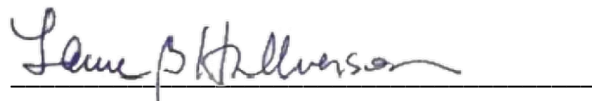
Anne reported that Ideal Landscape has begun construction at Deer Creek Preserve. Work thus far involves grading for the new parking area and trail, they are also digging for the bridge placement and fencing would be going up in the next few weeks. MSD does remain on site completing the Deer Creek Sanitary Sewer Replacement Phase III/IV. The contract amount is \$746,868 and one change order has been issued thus far for clearing shown on the plans as having already been completed.

After construction has been completed, there will be a reimbursement to the City for \$370,000 through the Municipal Park Construction Grant.

The Living Legacy program should be promoted in order to add additional plantings to the project.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10/12/2023 at 7:30 am.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laure Hullverson", written over a horizontal line.

Laure Hullverson, Chairperson