

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

Ladue Police Department Conference room and via Zoom Meetings

Members present

Laure Hullverson, Beverly Tucker-Knight, Nancy Ylvisaker, Heidi Reed, Pat Steiner, and Elliot Dole

Others present

Director of Public Works Anne Lamitola; Public Works Specialist Ashley Quinn, and Arborist Sean Seed

Adoption of agenda and minutes

Laure called for a motion to approve the November 9th minutes and the agenda for the from the December 14th meeting. Pat made a motion to approve, Heidi seconded the motion. All voted aye.

Public Comment

Bill Spradley of Trees, Forests and Landscapes

David Woltz, resident at 9 Upper Barnes

Ed Behan, resident at 21 Godwin

Dr. Losos, resident at 247 N. Price

Elizabeth Schenck of Treebute and Frontenac Garden Club

Tree removal permits

28 Somerset Downs – Sean reported that 28 Somerset Downs Dr. is applying for the removal of Eleven (11) trees total that have already been removed prior to applying for a permit, Two (2) Crab Apples, two (2) Magnolias, one (1) Cedar, three (3) landmark Maples with calipers of 24”, one (1) landmark Persimmon with a caliper of 24”, one (1) landmark Sweetgum with a caliper size of 32”, and one (1) landmark Honey Locust with a caliper size of 30”. The reason for their request to remove the trees is extensive site grading around and within the drip line of the trees. Because the trees were removed without a permit, replacements are required. The proposed replacements fulfill the requirements of both 50% native trees and 50% canopy trees.

After a discussion of the information presented, Pat made a motion to approve the tree removals and replacements as proposed. Heidi seconded the motion, all voted aye in favor and the application was approved.

Bill Spradley- Trees, Forests, and Landscapes

Bill Spradley presented to the committee about various tree related topics. The discussion related to trees that are hazardous and considered a nuisance and could be considered for removal from planting lists, such as the Pin Oak. There are a lot of problems with this species of trees making them undesirable in the tree canopy. Cherry Bark Oak is a better option as they are less prone to lower deadwood and have a more open canopy. They also do not get Oak wilt disease. They transplant well and are suggested over Cup Oaks and Burr Oaks. The Committee would like this species of tree to be planted on Arbor Day, if possible. He also suggested the use of Swamp Chestnut in wet areas as it has the best fall color. He

also provided information on TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) for arborists. Frontenac Forestry is hosting a seminar in January or February of 2024 regarding TRAQ.

Living Legacy

A discussion was held regarding the current Living Legacy program and ways to administer for greater impact.

Elizabeth Schneck from Treebute represents a business that plants memorial trees as shared gifts. They create living memorials by incorporating ashes from cremation into the planting. It is a company for profit, but they are looking into a not-for-profit outlet. Anne and Laure had received her information that was emailed and if they felt it was appropriate for us, they could reach out to her.

David Woltz commented that he does not think the residents in the community even know about the Living Legacy program. He suggested that residents investigate matching gift programs through their employers, and that the City could encourage that as an option for those interested. Other topics discussed were a matching program by businesses, creating a press release or brochure that could be distributed, and promoting the program at a ribbon cutting event for Deer Creek Preserve.

The committee decided a smaller subcommittee would be best to look at the costs for each tree planting and maintenance and development of promotional ideas. Those interested in serving on the subcommittee should let Laure Hullverson know.

Other Matters Deemed Appropriate

David Woltz stated that a house next to him at 10 Upper Barnes has at least thirty trees marked with streamers, presumably for removal. After some discussion it was suggested that these streamers might be marking the trees for their tree inventory since the property is going to be redeveloped. Code enforcement staff were aware of the concern and would be regularly checking on the property to make sure no removals take place prior to the proper permits and approvals.

Bamboo ordinance

Dr. Losos had questions about the recent proposed revisions to the ordinance relating to bamboo. The wording in the ordinance stated that the barrier needed to be placed a minimum of three feet from the property line. If there is already bamboo that has transferred to a neighboring property, then the barrier does not solve the encroachment. Staff commented that the bamboo on the other side of that barrier would need to be eradicated. It was noted that the ordinance did not specifically call out eradication. Since several of the members had to leave the meeting by this point, the proposed changes would be reviewed at the next BOSTA meeting so that input could be gathered from other members in advance of a recommendation to the City Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1/11/2024 at 7:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.

Laure Hullverson

Laure Hullverson, Chairperson