

Tree Commission meeting – May 25 2016

In attendance- Contacts updated at meeting below-

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Meeting start time 5:40 Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Secretary for this meeting – Joe Mehalik

SE Website has been updated to current members and notes

Update was given from Tree City Awards – flag stickers were received, metal sign for city received

Dean looking for additional flag stickers as we do not have enough – Jane to ask Alan

Dean also looking for Emerald Ash borer ID cards

Starting goal of tree commission is to update tree plan, education and outreach to the public

The current tree plan is not in a printable form

Last and first inventory of trees done in 1994 with updates being done by city as they work in a particular location

Discussion on the viability of the Knowles Municipal Forestry proposal (see report for details)

Currently 6000 trees exist on tree lawns – 10-20 grand for proposal

A tree bag discussion interrupted the proposal discussion – the idea was that when planting a new tree, gator bags are made mandatory – the pro and cons were being weighed out as to cost to customer and the ability or lack of support from the customer to maintain the gator bags. No resolution was arrived at. Back to initial discussion.

Multiple TC members requested simpler format for updates as many could not open previous meetings reports

Discussion started on ODOT and infrastructure replacement as trees are part of infrastructure. Would money be available from ODOT for trees for streets during replacement. Mayfield Rd is also a route would there be possibly Federal money available for Mayfield tree projects?

Anisdale Rd which was recently overhauled was brought up. There was confusion as to if trees were in the proposal when the road was being repaired.(after meeting it was found out that they were not, but trees are scheduled to be planted there in spring of 2017)

TC should be made aware of tree selection and time of planting

Suggestion was made to send out educational material about trees being planted in the neighborhood and the care and benefits. This will hopefully offset any resident's complaints about trees. Concerns over sidewalks seems to be a very big issue for city inspectors and arborists when dealing with residents as they have many complaints that trees cause all the upheaval of the cement and they do not want to pay for repairs.

Discussion continued on placement of sidewalks and sidewalks construction is not very compatible for trees. SE does allow curved sidewalks. Mention that maybe curved sidewalks could be installed to allow more room for trees. Using bricks as sidewalks was also suggested as you can replace a few bricks far cheaper than a concrete slab. Tree commission to look at sidewalk regulation and continue to look at options.

Leonard's ringtone is Star Wars

Finally back to initial discussion

Mention of City of Cleveland used volunteers to inventory streets.

Had criteria of sm-med-lg, right of way, wires or no wires, dead or alive, stump or no stump, space for tree

SE already has this in the tree tracker program. Dean requested we would have species of tree as well. Itree program was brought up as this is what City of Cleveland uses (under Davey tree) in conjunction with the sewer district. The itree is also free. There was discussion about both programs but since we already have tree tracker there didn't seem to be much advantage in switching to itree.

Question remains do we pay between 10-20,000 for a tree plan that would have better benefits or use volunteers which may not be as comprehensive. How to pay for it?

Sewer and utility charges city will be getting 25% of costs to spend on storm water management. However, Jim has his eye on a street sweeper which is about \$65,000 or so. Can we get some of this money for canopy management or to pay for the Knowles report?

"TC Commission wishes cost share money to be allocated annually to optimize storm water management."

Budgets are in place for the city but monthly meetings keep happening to consider long term plans and priorities. June 13 Dept. Director capital expense needs meeting taking place.

TC needs to express the understanding that tree canopy is part of infrastructure.

Jane mentioned her dream of silva cells all down Mayfield.

Meeting close to an end, the plan is to try to acquire needed money to proceed with Knowles report using grants and money for storm water management % .

Option two will remain on the table which will be the volunteer approach. Acquire volunteers from:

Notre Dame, Brush, Boy Scouts, CSU, Case Western, Banks

Set up training for volunteers to help in city pruning projects

Also use the volunteers for community outreach

Create possible fliers and add to website information on volcano mulching, trees not leafing out etc.

Get column in the SE bulletin magazine

Start facebook for TC. (Already put together by Kessa) Make TC all administrators

Ash tree removal money still available according to Jane through ODNR – Dean needs to remove Ash on several streets yet.

Rock the Block to be set up (Jane already signed up after meeting) June 18

Schedule of who can man the table TBD.

Meeting over – Go Cavs!

Next meeting set for Aug 3rd 5:30