

## South Euclid Tree Commission Minutes

Meeting 7-29-2020 6 pm Zoom

Present: Joe Mehalik; chair, Miriam Plax, Debbie Wrigt, Dean Grida, Lenny Chormanski, Jane Goodman, Kessa Turnbull, Dominic Liberatore,

Absent: Tammy Lease

Meeting started 6pm

1. No Public Input

2 No pending appeals. All past appeals have been resolved.

3. November tree Give away .. some time in the end of November.. details and tree availability pending. Will discuss at early fall meeting.

4. Discussion about considering permits for taking down big trees on private land. In the recent years many large healthy trees have been removed for various reasons. As a tree commission we would like to encourage home owners to keep the trees, plus there is some concerns about the expertise of some of these tree removal companies. Dominic would like to review rules requiring a certified arborist.. How do we weight the rights of home owners and the public benefit of big trees.

Action: Dominic will bring information to the next meeting,

5. Grant Update/Tree Inventory/ Urban Site Index: This is the information that we need in order to Develop our Urban Forestry Management Plan for the City Of South Euclid, Ohio

Most of the meeting was spent discussing this issue. There are many unknowns. The inventory is complete. There are 8785 trees but we are still waiting for the data. The updated tree tracker program with the new inventory has not been loaded onto Dean's computer. What we don't know includes:

\* Do we have a Grant Extension, we are already overdue with our expected reporting. Keith Benjamin has not responded to our request for this information.

\*Will we as Tree Commissioners be able to see/have our own read only copies of the Tree Tracker inventory and urban site index.

\* Will the data from Jeff Kest include summary reports such as priority tree removal, tree trimming needs, pruning needs, young tree training needs etc or will Dean have to spend time pulling out this information.

What we do know is:

\* We need data on Tree Removals..(1)Where, number of trees, which trees should be done first, (2) which trees need more care, how many, where (3) how many young trees are there, where, what age and what training do they need, (4) the number of empty planting sites : So Dean can prioritize his work over the next 5 to 10 years. This data is needed for the Urban

Forest Plan. Our tree management plan has historically been divided between our 4 wards into 8 treatment areas. Will we continue with this model or develop something new?

\* The Urban Forestry Plan is an Internal Document that helps the Arborist and Service Department plan the tree care over time. It is also used by the Mayor and City Council when working on the budget.

\* There is some money for the tree care program. As a Tree City the City of South Euclid must spend \$2/city resident per year for tree care, Plus there is money in the tree fund, some grants and Dominion owes us money for tree they remove as part of the infrastructure work.

\* Past Urban Forestry Management plans for South Euclid 2006 and 2009 were aspirational and not accomplished for budgetary reasons. We can chose our time frame and we can chose our format.

\* A part of the grant includes in kind help from Jane Goodman's group Cuyahoga River of Concern. They will be using a spread sheet to transfer the Tree tracker inventory data onto a GIS map. They may be able to help with pulling out data from the tree inventory data base to help create our priority lists. and data integration.

\* We have all read over our past plans from 2006 and 2009 covering a 5 and 10 year time frame which emphasized the planting of trees, not maintenance. More trees is better. Jane has suggested that we re-look at our priorities and values and emphasize leaves in the air, healthy canopy and trees in the right place. For the first 5 years we should only plant requested trees. We should avoid planting trees that we can not care for. We should spend our money on rehabbing teen and middle aged trees. We should be doing young tree training on the trees we have planted or the ones that Dominion will be planting. We should be mulching our tree lawn trees.

Plan:

1. We can start working on the bullet points for our Urban Forestry Plan. Once we get our data then we can write up when and where we will do the work. Each tree commission member is encouraged to write up some of the **bullet points by 8/12 and send them to Joe** for collating. We will discuss them at our 8-19 Wed 6pm zoom meeting

2. Dean will work on a **list of costs for tree maintenance, planing removal, etc.** along with Dominic, Debbie and Joe. It might be helpful to have this at the next meeting also, but needs to be done for the final draft of the Urban Forestry Master Plan.

Meeting adjourned 7:04 pm

Next meeting 8-19-2020 6 pm by zoom

Submitted:

Debbie Wright

8-4-2020 Addendum

The updated Tree tracker program and inventory will be down loaded into Dean's Computer on Thursday 8-6. Dean will try to get a copy for tree commission members.