



Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 11, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order – *Chairman Stemmler called the group to order at 6:02pm*

In attendance: *Dave Pracht, Matthew Broderick, Stephanie Hardesty, John Dodge, Mayor Clement, Jane Sharp, Nancy Miller, Mark Halpin of Davey Resource Group*

Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2023, Tree Advisory Board Meeting – Approved

1. **2022-2023 Missouri Department of Conservation Grant Application - La Bonne Pkwy Bradford Pears Removal & Replacement Update - Mark Halpin & Dave Pracht**

The grant work has been completed, all paperwork cleared, and the City has been reimbursed by MDC. Dave Pracht and Mark Halpin have discussed replanting with the neighborhood trustees, and all agree that waiting until the upcoming La Bonne Parkway reconstruction project is completed will be the safest way to proceed.

2. **2023-2024 Missouri Department of Conservation Grant Application – Mark Halpin & Parks Staff**

This year's application will focus on woodland restoration in Schroeder Park.

Mayor Clement enquired about the amount of grant money available. Mark Halpin discussed IRA (inflation relief act) funding bringing in extra money that will mostly go to underserved communities but will still increase the amount available locally.

Future projects – next year the city will likely seek funding for re-inventory and, if annexation goes through, adding additional trees to the inventory.

3. **Spring Limb Chipping Report - Dave Pracht**

All three Wards have been completed. Typical amounts of brush were put out. There has been lots of participation. Fall chipping will begin in October.

Nancy Miller asked if storm damage is collected by the City from private properties. Public Works staff audits the entire city to inspect the right-of-way for fallen limbs from street trees and hanging limbs in trees. This is the standard practice unless an emergency citywide collection is declared by the Board of Aldermen (which means residents can bring private debris out from all parts of their yard).

4. Tree City USA & Growth Award Ceremony– Dave Pracht & John Dodge

Dave Pracht, Alderman Dodge and Ottenad, and Code Enforcement Supervisor John Plowman attended. It was a nice event held at the Maryland Heights Community Center. Several cities got Tree City USA recognition, only a few received growth awards (Manchester included). This was Manchester's 5th year for Tree City, 4th for the Growth Award.

5. Arbor Day Event Report – Parks Staff

Stephanie Hardesty tells everyone that she and the Parks Department appreciate the help the tree board provided. There were 475 native tree seedlings were given out, and Parks will order the same varieties again next year as the Tree Board agreed it was a good selection. The event will be either April 20 or 27th, 2024.

6. Other Topics

Mayor Clement asked if MDC offer two grants at once. Mark Halpin says it is possible, particularly if one grant focuses on forestry and another on natural area restoration based around non-woody plants. Mark mentioned Stoecker Park as a good location for a two-part grant for forest restoration and streambank renovation. Mayor Clement asks the group to consider other areas that might also be viable.

Chairman Stemmler asks about possible grant funding for a community garden – a growing space for trees and plants to be used in the city. Mark Halpin says he'll ask MDC.

Chairman Stemmler complimented the tree trimming and city staff performed in the spring and thanks David Pracht and Mark Halpin for organizing a training session for city staff.

Stephanie Hardesty mentioned the September tree walk and Winter pruning class that parks will be providing, both led by Mark Halpin.

Next meeting will be on October 3, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment - 6:39pm