



**MINUTES
TREE ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021
4:00pm**

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Council Chair
Ann Williams, Council Member
Nate Smith, Citizen Member
Tim Kalan, Citizen Member
George Eaton, Citizen Member
Charles Orłowski, Superintendent of Forestry
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works

Also Present: Kelly Baker, Administrative Coordinator, Public Works
John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake

CALL TO ORDER – 4:05pm
Nancy Moore, Council Chair

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021 MEETING MINUTES
Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Council Chair Moore asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the February 9, 2021, minutes. There were none, a motion was made by Citizen Member Kalan, it was seconded and the motion was approved.

Council Chair Moore spoke about how this meeting was to be a presentation involving the Tree Assessment, however she stated that this needed to be delayed. She stated that they will need to move this to a special meeting on April 6th to vote on the Directors recommendation.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Charles Orłowski, Superintendent of Forestry

Forester Orłowski discussed the crews work and stated how they are getting a lot of pruning done on South Woodland from Green to Sulgrave, Paxton, Sebor Albion and are on Douglas currently. He stated due to the nice weather he was able to inventory all those streets as well as Sussex and Berwyn. He mentioned how the spring planting list of 255 trees was sent to the contractor to be planted this spring. Forester Orłowski stated that they applied for a county grant and hoped to hear something positive by April 1st. He discussed that he worked with the Planning department on another grant for Tree City USA that was part of a Bank of America Grant Program. He mentioned assisting the Heights Tree People with

a grant for a planting at Southerly Park. Director Speese asked the Forester to explain why the Planning Department took the lead on the Bank of America grant. He stated the grant was focused on low income areas. The area they are focused on is a section of Scottsdale Blvd. and one of the focuses of the grant is on traffic calming by narrowing the road and adding additional trees. The Planning department took the lead because they are pulling from other grants as well to get this accomplished.

Forester Orlowski stated that the new chipper for the forestry department was due to arrive this week and the new bucket truck is in production.

Council Chair Moore asked the forester about a social media chain from last week about tree pruning and wanted him to explain the different reasons why they trim trees. Forester Orlowski stated this comes up every year when they start pruning. He continued to say that for every road that is under construction for the season they raise up the canopy of the trees to a minimum height of 14 feet to prevent trucks from damaging the trees when getting the equipment through. Residents have concern when there is a lot of pruning because they haven't been able to keep up with their pruning schedule. Council Chair Moore stated the resident's perception is that we are taking away canopy by pruning.

Director Speese stated that Communication and Marketing stated when these social media posts get out of hand, that it's best practice is to not respond. Citizen Kalan suggested to get in front of it and make a post on Living in Shaker stating they are going to be pruning to improve the health. Director Speese stated that on the Shaker Heights website is where they would post information and not on other forums. She stated that it's a Communication and Marketing decision and they advise not to respond to negative comments. Council Chair Moore stated that what they are suggesting is that some aspects of the forestry department need a public education.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Onaway Triangle

Citizen Member Smith updated the board on the Onaway Triangle project he is working on. He advised that he is communicating with Colin Compton and Cameron Roberts and starting the community feedback process. He stated the first meeting with some neighbors will be held by the end of March. They will have a few rounds of those kinds of meetings with the hope that planting will start in the fall.

Nursery

Citizen Member Kalan discussed his idea of a tree farm. Stating that the forester in Shaker Heights, back in 1965, created a tree farm on the Shaker Country Club area. Citizen Kalan stated his idea was to create a tree farm again so the City could have trees on hand to be harvested and planted at the cities convenience and done without the need for contractors. Citizen Member Kalan stated before any of this can be considered he would like to have a better understanding of what the cities process is for picking and planting trees. Director Speese stated that Citizen Member Kalan mentioned this possibility last year and she had advised him at that time that this is not something that can be done. However, she stated that they do not plant their own trees and that all of these questions are regarding the cities administrative function and the purpose of the Tree Board is not to manage the details of the Forestry Department. She mentioned that we plant hundreds of trees every year and do not have the man power to dig up, plant and organize volunteers. Director Speese suggested to Council Chair Moore that the Tree Advisory Board should find a community organization to take on that project with the understanding of the intensity of the project and they could sell the trees to residents for a stipend to plant on private property. She feels that the city is doing their share of reforestation and this would be hugely beneficial to residents to use these trees. The

Director stated that with having the contractors plant the trees they save on hiring enough employees to be able to handle the volume of planting and the contractor comes in and gets it done and then leaves. The forester over sees the plantings, determines the location and selects the trees. Director Speese stated that they cannot get into the nursery business. Forester Orlowski stated that he believes having a community nursery is a great idea but not by the Forestry Department. He stated that they would need to find a viable property; water to maintain; get the department of agriculture approval; and get licensing. Plus the need for spraying the trees and they know that residents don't want spraying within the city limits. He stated that doesn't even get into the legal side of owning a nursery. The Forester stated that the process is streamlined with the city working with a contractor. Forester Orlowski stated at least 5-6 years for a tree to mature to a level to replant and it also depends on the type of tree. Director Speese stated it would be very labor intensive and the maintenance involved is extensive. Director Speese also stated that the forester goes out and individually selects each and every tree.

Council Chair Moore mentioned the Community Gardens and stated the Rolliston one is very successful. She suggested that maybe they use it for a tree farm. Director Speese reminded Citizen Member Kalan that this is a long term commitment and that in the past the City has had community groups abandon property and the city had to take over.

Arbor Day

Council Chair Moore mentioned the Scavenger Hunt collaboration for Arbor Day with the Library. She stated that it will be done mostly online. Forester Orlowski spoke about the handouts they purchased for the contestants and winners. Council Chair Moore stated this will happen on April 30th.

Tree Planting Southerly Park

Council Chair Moore talked about Heights Tree People (HTP) group applying for a grant to plant trees at Southerly Park. Forester Orlowski stated this group, with the grant money, will plant trees around Southerly Park with the help from the left over money from the Hermes Foundation and the city will supply the trees to the HTP group to plant and maintain them. Council Chair Moore stated the HTP group needed to come up with enough volunteers to guarantee a summer watering schedule the 20-30 new trees that will be planted. Citizen Members Kalan and Smith already volunteered and Citizen Member Eaton stated he would sign up as a volunteer as well. Council Chair Moore explained all that the HTP group will do to maintain the trees planted if the grant is received.

Free Front Yard Tree Program

Council Chair Moore mentioned the HTP group's Free Front Yard Tree Planting Program. The group will help choose the location and species, they will purchase the tree and plant the tree, mulch, stake and add a deer cage. They will give instructions on watering and care to the residents. Council Chair asked the Board to approve this program and pass it on to the Communication Department to advertise on our website. The Director, Forester and Board approved this program. The Forester stated that when the Public Works Department Customer Service Representatives get those calls they will refer the residents to the HTP group. Council Chair Moore stated the HTP people are funded by taking in donations. They will plant in the front yard for free, but charge for back yard planting. John Barber stated that the HTP group tracks by city, species and also the survival rate. The City of Shaker will be able to obtain that information.

NOPEC

Council Chair Moore stated that NOPEC, the utility organization that the city offers its residents, gives back a \$1,000 grant to a non-profit in the community and it was given to the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. She mentioned the two ideas that are being considered for this grant. One being a Take to

The Lake event allowing canoes and kayaks on Lower Lake and one is to create a plant boarder in three areas adjacent to the brook.

Grants

Council Chair Moore discussed the grants that we have applied for recently. The Healthy Urban Tree Canopy grant that could be for up to \$67,000 for tree planting in the median strip of Van Aken. The grant, if awarded, would allow the city to plant 167 trees. Forester Orłowski stated that he worked with the Planning department and that the grant winners should be notified by April 1st.

Council Chair Moore stated that the Bank of America Arbor Day Foundation's Community Resilience Grant will be used for the traffic calming on Scottsdale Blvd. The Planning department has been applying for the grant as well as other grants for the traffic calming project because the total cost of this project would be \$200,000. This grant is worth \$50,000 and is specifically for green infrastructure. Forester Orłowski stated that he discussed with Kara in planning that the north curb line is too narrow to plant trees and the intent would be to widen that tree lawn to plant more trees as well as planting trees between Pennington Road and Lee Road on Scottsdale Blvd.

Citizen Member Eaton asked if the city was interested in planting ornamental trees like Japanese Maples or Dogwoods because he sees a lot of interest from residents in planting those kinds of trees. He wanted to know if they are just interested in the 30 foot trees to make a bigger canopy. Forester Orłowski stated that some of the ornamental trees have very specific soils that are needed. They are not good tree lawn trees because of the rock salt and other issues. He mentioned that they plant flowering Magnolias and other flowering trees to add more color to the neighborhoods.

Council Chair Moore advised of the addition of an April 6th TAB meeting to the 2021 Meetings to discuss the tree assessment.

Tree Advisory Board 2021 Meetings

March 9, 2021

April 6, 2021-CANCELLED

May 11, 2021

August 10, 2021

November 9, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Moore, Council Chairperson
Tree Advisory Board

