



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

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

Also Present: Jeri Chaikin, CAO
Kelly Baker, Administrative Coordinator, Public Works
John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake
Christopher Seaman

CALL TO ORDER – 4:03pm
Nancy Moore, Council Chair

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nancy Moore, Council Chair introduced the newest citizen member. Citizen Member Eaton mentioned that he has been a Shaker resident for over 40 years and a member of the Baha’i of Shaker Heights who had requested a tree planting and monument at Hildana Park. This is where he met Nancy Moore and other board members. He also mentioned the work he was involved with the library playground to get it to be reflective of cultural expansion and that’s it became the “Around the World Playground”.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Council Chair Moore asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the November 10, 2020, minutes. There were none, a motion was made by Citizen Member Kalan, it was seconded and the motion was approved.

HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL**Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works**

Director Speese stated there are not many larger grants available to cities for trees. Director Speese spoke of the Van Aken Blvd median having very few trees and that it is not like Shaker Blvd. She stated that there is a large amount of open space and felt that using this grant opportunity for funding to put more trees in this area as well as the Onaway median by Van Aken would have great benefits. Director Speese stated that about 150 trees would go into the Van Aken median. She stated that Public Works will be working with the Planning Department on this grant application and they will add more information. It is an advantage to Shaker that they ask RTA for a letter of support because part the criteria gives bonus points for multi jurisdiction participation. Also, a component of the grant is to have a maintenance plan and the Street Tree Master Plan fits that criteria.

Director Speese stated that the City is required to include a 10% match to the grant. Although the Tree Assessment can't be used for this project the city is required to have 2% of the tree budget in the General Fund and those funds would be used as our matching contribution. She asked the board for support and approval to apply for this grant. Council Chair Moore advised that it takes 120 newly planted trees to produce a canopy growth of 1% and this could be a large boost to the tree canopy.

Council Chair Moore asked for a motion to approve the application for \$67,000 for the Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program that will require a city match of 10%. A motion was made by Citizen Member Smith, it was seconded and the motion was approved.

STREET TREE MASTER TREE PLAN APPROVAL**Nancy Moore, Council Chair**

Council Chair Moore advised the board of the changes that were made after everyone had submitted their comments and a discussion was had with some board members, the Forester and Director. She asked Forester Orłowski to explain why it stated Spring Planting only and there was no mention of the Fall Planting. Forester Orłowski stated the bulk of the work is done in the spring because the spring rains help the plantings and just a few of them trees will be planted in the fall. Council Chair Moore asked if the warranty work that is being done and replacements that will be needed will be done in the fall and Forester Orłowski stated that was correct. Director Speese stated that the plan should say the majority of the planting will be done in the spring.

Citizen Member Coffman explained his request to change the wording from Master Planting Design to the Tree Selection Model in the plan. He stated it would match better with the changes of species and availability of trees over time.

Council Chair Moore asked if there were any further items that needed to be discussed or if there were any further items that needed further change. Forester Orłowski added that although he didn't note all the suggestions for native tree species from the board members in the plan he has the list for when the city goes out for bid. Citizen Member Coffman asked if the title can be a 5 year strategic plan as previously discussed. Director Speese stated that she felt that adding 5 years to the title would be best so that they can see how the implementation goes and how close they are to meeting the targets and benchmarks. Then if needed they could adjust whether they need to keep 5 years in the title. She believes that this will insure that this plan does not get put on a shelf and never be reviewed again. Director Speese mentioned how this plan is needed to help our infrastructure co-exist to assist in not planting trees over utilities such as gas lines and sewer pipes. Director Speese explained how long this process has taken and all the people and departments that have reviewed and had input into creating this Master Street Tree Plan.

Citizen Member Eaton asked how the tree species were selected and Forester Orlowski explained that it is based on several factors. One being the soil conditions and size of the tree lawn, another being the type of tree that can survive salted roads as well as making sure trees, such as Cottonwood or Willow trees that could cause hazards in the road way, are not selected. He also mentioned that selection is based on what is available at the nurseries.

Council Member Ann Williams thanked the Forester and everyone on the board for putting this together and expressed her excitement for this plan.

Council Chair Moore asked if there were any further questions and asked for a motion to accept the Street Tree Master Tree Plan with the changes noted at the meeting, there being none a motion was made by Citizen Member Coffman, it was seconded and the motion was approved.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Charles Orlowski, Superintendent of Forestry

Forester Orlowski spoke about the December storm that had kept the crews busy with clean up through January. He stated that they ran three crews with the current focus on South Woodland Blvd. The Forester stated that the focus will move to pruning on the streets that have capital improvements this year.

Forester Orlowski advised that the new bucket truck completion date was moved again to mid to late April due to Covid. He also stated that the planting list is complete for 2021 and asked the board if they were in agreement to stay away from planting 4" trees because they don't take as well as 2" trees and would like to stop offering them with the spring planting. However, if the resident really wanted one they can reach out separately. The Board was in agreement.

The Forester said that the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP) is looking to plant 28 more trees in Southerly Park depending on grant funding.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Council Chair Moore spoke of the Urban Tree Canopy Grant to use to plant on the Van Aken median strip. She spoke of the goal of sustainability of the NOPEC Grant that was awarded this year to the DBWP. Also the Cuyahoga Soils and Water Department \$1000.00 grant that funded trees on Magnolia Row and Lower Lake Park. She advised that the Heights Tree People volunteer to plant trees. Council Chair Moore asked the boards for support with collaborations to plant more trees with these organizations and the board pledged their support.

Council Chair Moore discussed the group Heights Tree People and their work with helping plant trees in front yards for free as well as work with the resident on location, species and planting. They will also agree to plant in the back yard for a fee. In the last 4 years this group has planted 400 trees in the Heights area. John Barber, from Friends of Lower Lakes, stated the Heights Tree People raise money privately and there are no public funds involved. Council Chair Moore stated that she will discuss a collaboration and social media notification of such collaboration with the city CAO and will discuss with the board at the next meeting.

Forester Orlowski spoke about the Memorial Tree Fund that former board member Matt Warren had started. Mr. Warren reached out to Forester Orlowski about using a street tree as a memorial tree planting

on the Fernway side of the school as a tribute to a parent that passed away. Forester Orłowski mentioned that we would be planting a tree on the Dorchester side of the street with a plaque. The students would be responsible to raise the money for the plaque.

Council Chair Moore spoke about the Arbor Day Children's Virtual Scavenger Hunt. The scavenger hunt will include tree related items they will gather and present virtually. Gali's will be donating trees again this year. She asked the board for their support to continue collaborating with the Library with the Arbor Day event. Forester Orłowski stated that the city would provide giveaways for participants. Council Chair Moore stated that the application will be on Shakeronline.com.

Council Chair Moore advised of the 2021 Meetings:

- March 9, 2021
- May 11, 2021
- August 10, 2021
- November 9, 2021

Forester Orłowski announced that Tree City USA was cancelled for 2021.


Citizen Member Kalan will be attending the Tree Academy this year.

Council Chair Moore spoke about applying for a \$25,000 Ohio Historical Preservation Society grant to create a master plan to preserve the Warrensville West Cemetery. She is expecting notice of award in spring of 2021.

Council Member Williams advised that there is Lower Lake Planning zoom meeting on 2-9-21 seeking input on a trail at Lower Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Nancy Moore, Council Chairperson
Tree Advisory Board

