



**MINUTES
TREE ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, February 11, 2020
4:00pm**

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Council Chair
Matt Warren, Citizen Member
Reid Coffman, Citizen Member
Ted Auch, Citizen Member
Nate Smith, Citizen Member
Tim Kalan, Citizen Member
Charles Orlowski, Superintendent of Forestry
Patricia Speese, Director of Public Works

Also Present: Kelly Baker, Administrative Coordinator, Public Works
Jaimie Johnson, Cuyahoga Soils & Water District
John Barber, Friends of Lower Lake
Peggy Spaeth, Friends of Lower Lake

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00pm

Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Introduction of new members and visitors.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Council Chair Moore asked if there were any questions, changes or additions to the November 12, 2019, minutes. There were none, a motion was made by Citizen Member Warren, it was seconded and the motion carried.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Charles Orlowski, Superintendent of Forestry

Forester Orlowski discussed the Forestry work since the last Tree Advisory Board meeting. He explained that the department is currently running two crews and they have planted over 300 trees. The department is focusing on the streets that will be paved this year to rid the trees of low hanging limbs to prevent damage from the road equipment.

Citizen Member Kalan asked that when they repave the road some of the curbs are replaced and is this best practice. Forester Orlowski explained that a lot of the times with the curb needs to be removed but sometimes if it could damage the tree they will either hand dig or not replace the curb. Director Speese added that we have a curb program now and the whole purpose of the curb is to convey the water to the catch basin not for aesthetic reasons.

Council Chair Moore asked about staffing in the forestry department. Director Speese advised that the forestry department is funded by the tree assessment and it generated \$770,000 yearly and that that fee has not been raised in 20 years. We are at critical level of staffing because of that funding. The Director advised that the tree assessment is up for renewal next year and this will be further discussed. She advised that the current forestry staff is three.

Citizen Member Coffman asked if the Forester's Report would include planted trees and Forester Orlowski indicated that it is reported at the end of the year. Director Speese said that is it usually close to around 400 trees. Citizen Member Warren ask if it was possible to have access to this spreadsheet to make it easier for him to understand. Director Speese stated that it is a working document and that would not be available. However, she indicated that we can add it to the minutes in a larger font for easier readability.

Forester Orlowski talked about a \$50,000 tree grant application from Bank of America. He stated he was in the process of completing the application and that the grant is focusing on low income areas. He also stated that he is working with Neighborhood Revitalization Director, Kamla Lewis to focus on planting in the vacant lots in those areas. Citizen Member Kalan asked if this was on the lot and not the tree lawn and the Council Chair Moore explained that the city owns lots and we need to maintain them. Director Speese indicated that there are over 200 vacant lots that the Public Works Department has to maintain. Council Chair Moore stated that these areas would benefit from the grant.

Citizen Member Kalan asked if there has ever been consideration of starting a city owned nursery. Director Speese stated that the Public Works department would not have the manpower to run a nursery. She stated that whenever someone asks if Public Works can do something additional they need to understand that we are down 16 positions of laborers and only one service (large item pickup) was removed from what was provided to residents; therefore there is no room to add additional tasks. She also explained how hard it is to find skilled laborers.

Director Speese mentioned that she had been looking into the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) Green Infrastructure grants to apply for and possibly have a learning pathway throughout the Moreland area to teach about stormwater management. Council Chair Moore stated that this would help look at the vacant lots more as parklands.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**Nancy Moore, Council Chair**

Council Chair Moore asked Forester Orlowski for an update on the Arbor Day planting location. Forester Orlowski stated they are looking at Laurel and Aldersyde Roads by the high school since they will be working with the high school students.

Council Chair Moore stated that she had information about the Warrensville West Cemetery on Lee Road possibly to be used for the Arbor Day program. She made reference to the tour of the cemetery that she took last fall. Also mentioning \$30,000 that was put in the capital budget for community programs. Council Chair Moore suggests using the funds for a ground penetrating survey so we could plant the Arbor Day tree there instead. If that can't be done before Arbor Day she stated they would go with the Laurel and Aldersyde Road location.

Forester Orlowski said the Laurel Road location had lost a pear tree and would plan on replacing it with that same kind of tree, however it is a large area and he is open for suggestions. Citizen Kalan suggested a White Oak. Director Speese agreed and stated that the city can plant a White Oak.

STREET TREE MASTER TREE PLAN BACKGROUND**Patricia Speese, Director**

Director Speese addressed how she has been working on getting a street tree master plan in the works for the City. She stated that trees should be considered one of the most desirable assets the City has.

Director Speese stated that our 100 year old infrastructure is being rebuilt. Dominion East Ohio Gas, who will be spending over 50 million dollars in our city, has already completed 10%, as they are replacing all the gas mains in the city of Shaker. The city just adopted the increase in the sewer fee and we are going to rehabilitate at least one of the main sewer systems throughout the entire city. We are going to line, replace, and repair the main sewers and the laterals coming from the test tee to the main lines. Also the Cleveland Water Department has already given the city over 15 million dollars in new waterlines and anticipate another 15 million over the next ten years.

Director Speese explained how during construction season approximately two to three times a week the Forester comes into her office and states that a utility company in the city is requesting tree removal in order to repair a sewer, gas line, etc. She explained that she repeatedly says no, and has them look at redesigning their project to avoid removing the tree. The city has revised the Right of Way permit (ROW), which is the permit that directs anyone who is digging in the sidewalk, tree lawn, street or any public area, that when encountering work close to a tree to contact the Forester to inspect prior to digging, the Forester will then advise the appropriate way to protect the tree and then he inspects it afterwards to make sure they did the work appropriately.

Citizen Member Kalan asked if any contractor removes a tree, do they replace the tree. Director Speese said they do replace anything they remove and Forester Orlowski stated that if it is a tree worth saving that he can get them to move the work or if the tree is not

worth saving, they will remove it at their cost and reimburse the city for a new tree. Director Speese gave an example of how Dominion was on South Woodland where there are 100 year plus old oak trees and she directed them to redesign around the trees to save them. She stated that most likely every home in Shaker has a tree planted by, next to or on top of the properties sewer lines. Her objective is to have a tree plan so that when trees are planted we are avoiding the sewer lines, gas lines, and waterlines. The idea is not to plant less trees but to be more strategic about where they are planted and not everyone is going to have enough room to have two or three trees on their tree lawns. When trees are being planted we are taking into account the infrastructure so that it keeps costs down when looking to save the trees and they can stay put for many years to come.

Citizen Warren expressed concern about established trees is that the roots are going everywhere and the projects need to be coordinated. Director Speese stated that is exactly what we do at this time and will continue to do so. She stated that is what happened recently with Lomond. We have a sewer project on the books and Dominion has a gas line project scheduled for 2021-2024 so we asked them to consider moving it up and if we get funding for the sewer project, because it's a combined project with Dominion and then we get funding for a water line, for the same reason. Also, Dominion will be putting their line under the sidewalk which means they will be replacing all the sidewalks and not the resident or city.

Director Speese stated that when we do have a planned project where large trucks will be working on a street for resurfacing, the forestry crew, prior to the work, prunes the trees on the street to make sure the trees don't get damaged. We also send a crew to dig up the test tees, we jet both laterals from the tees to the main, we clean the main, we televise the laterals and replace or repair any damaged laterals and mainline sewers. The objective is when we are done on that street, we do not have to return for any repairs anytime soon. Citizen Member Warren asked if directional boring can be used on sewers like it is used on forced pressure gas and waterlines. Forester Orlowski explained that sewers rely on gravity and are laid at a 1% grade which directional boring cannot achieve.

Council Chair Moore stated that she believed we needed to plant two trees to every tree lawn because that is what we have always done, but understands that it's important to consider the infrastructure and the survival of the tree. Director Speese stated that we need to spend some money on trimming trees and take care of what we have. She reference how we applied for a grant for pruning in the Larchmere area and were denied, then the storm came through and decimated the old trees.

Director Speese asked of the committee to look at Forester Orlowski's comprehensive plan for donating money for planting trees in parks and help put a program together to make this successful. Forester Orlowski talked about the first one he did and how successful it was. Council Chair Moore suggested advertising this program on the city website.

Citizen Member Coffman asked the director how the board should prepare for reviewing the Street Tree Master Tree Plan when it comes to them. He asked what the document was going to look like, if it would have maps and tree list. Director Speese said it will include all of those components and the document will first be reviewed by the Mayor, the CAO,

Council Representative Moore, Forester Orlowski and herself before bringing to the board. Citizen Warren expressed concern with just using a template made for all cities and how will it differ for the City of Shaker Heights. Director Speese said Forester Orlowski has already changed the template and adapted it to Shaker Heights. Forester Orlowski explained how he worked with ODNR for the past year and worked with him in the city. He discussed all the variables he looked at and how he documented each road's tree lawn trees.

Council Chair Moore stated that the Tree Committee would see the Street Tree Master Plan before it goes to council. Director Speese confirmed. Citizen Member Coffman suggested that the plan opens with how the plan challenges and meets aspirations such as climate change and biological diversity. He also suggested putting into the plan that if there are difficult sites with difficult soils, that with modern technology we can create soils better for planting. Forester Orlowski has already added that into the plan to try to rebuild soils that are reclaimed from road projects.

Projects

Nancy Moore, Council Chair

Council Chair Moore stated these aren't on the agenda but she wants to bring them to the Board. First project she discussed was new Citizen Member Smith's Onaway Triangle that has been submitted for the \$30,000 Community Program's money. She discussed how he got input from Members Coffman and Auch and how they will have to go through the public process. Council Chair Moore will submit a goal statement for the project and the Tree Advisory Board would be willing to co-sponsor if selected. She stated that the big challenge would be to find an outside contractor to plant the trees.

Another project discussed was using volunteers to do planting collaborations and matching donations. Council Chair Moore spoke with Dr. Mostade who would be willing to donate \$6,300 (\$800.00 from previous donation and \$5,500 new) with the condition of it being a matching grant. The Friends of Lower Lake were able to secure a \$5,500 grant from Dominion East Ohio Gas. Director Speese advised that the policy is under the Foresters guidance and leadership with volunteers the city could assist, however, she would not be able to remove city staff from daily operations to work on another tree planting event. Council Chair Moore stated that the city had ordered the trees and wondered if that would be possible for another planting event. Forester Orlowski stated that they can be ordered through the city. Council Chair Moore stated that we would like to increase the event over what it was last year.

Council Chair Moore discussed a project from Jean Reinhold from Fernway School that was comprised of pictures from over a hundred children's face and they wrote a word that they associated with trees on them. She was the winner of the Poe-Tree and Poem contest. Council Chair Moore said that she contacted the schools to be able to plant Jean's awarded tree at Fernway.

Council Chair Moore also stated that Dr. Mostade had mentioned he wondered if the Tree Board could set a goal of how many trees the city can plant in a year. She suggests that we co-sponsor. She referenced that the Committee would not be paying for them, but supporting of the initiatives and the City can publicize them. Director Speese asked about

the encouragement for donating a tree in someone's name. Council Chair Moore said that is exactly what she was referring to. John Barber asked if there was a way we could say how many trees overall were planted in the city. Director Speese explained that the Public Works Department oversees the majority of the tree plantings but the Planning Department does street scape improvements and plant a lot of trees also. She stated that we collectively add those to the number of trees the city plants. Director Speese also stated that in order to dig for a tree (private property or public) you need to pull a ticket with the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) and that the Public Works Departments gets copied on every ticket pulled in the city. She advised that we could look to see all private trees planted in a year if the resident called OUPS before planting.

Council Chair Moore asked if anyone would be attending the on March 6th at Lakeland Community College and Citizen Member Coffman stated he would attend.

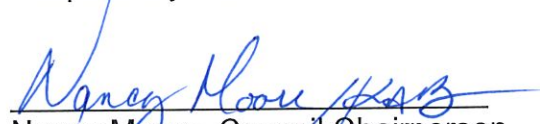
Friends of Lower Lake members John Barber and Peggy Spaeth spoke of programs that are running from February through April.

Forester Orlowski mentioned that he would like if the board would make some more suggestions for articles as well as submit articles. He mentioned he would like to do an article about hanging signs on trees and the problems that occur from driving nails/staples into the trees.

Next meeting will be August 11, 2020, at 4:00 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Nancy Moore, Council Chairperson
Tree Advisory Board

