



ST. CHARLES
SINCE 1834

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Tree Commission Minutes

Presenter: Richard Gallas

Please check appropriate box:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Government Operations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Government Services 01.24.11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Planning & Development | <input type="checkbox"/> | City Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|---|-----------------------------|
| Estimated Cost: | N/A | Budgeted: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
|-----------------|-----|-----------|---|-----------------------------|

If NO, please explain how item will be funded:

Executive Summary:

A duty of the Tree Commission is to advise and consult with the Government Services Committee. November 2010 meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments: (please list)

Tree Commission Minutes - November 2010.

Recommendation / Suggested Action (briefly explain):

For Your Information.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>For office use only:</i> | <i>Agenda Item Number: 2*b</i> |
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**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2010**

Members Present: Chair. Jim Nau, Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers, Pam Otto, Phil Zavitz, Ron Ziegler

Members Absent: Valerie Blaine, Chris Scott

Others Present: Pat Konishi, Peter Suhr

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair. Jim Nau at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

3. Introductions of Visitors and Comments and Concerns

Omnibus Vote

4. Recommend approval of September 2010 Minutes

Motioned by Phil Zavitz, second by Pam Otto to approve omnibus vote as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Valerie Blaine, Chris Scott. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

A. Commission Membership Requirements

Ben Deutsch will formalize an Executive Summary for presentation to the City Council; membership on the St. Charles Tree Commission will be open to residents of the City of St. Charles and/or St. Charles Township.

B. Langum Park Follow Up

Jim Nau presented. Dates for clean up would need to be in February or March and will be discussed in the January meeting. It was stated that Ben Deutsch had conversations with Dennis of the Park District regarding how Park District handles similar issues. A burn was suggested as a possible resource. The objective is to identify a larger volume of people who can help. This type of work is restricted to a limited number of weekends, and in the past a cleared area is overgrown by the time of the next work project. The goal is to clear the woods, possibly put in paths, and make it more user-friendly to citizens. Research of costs and practicality of upkeep of

Langum Woods could be conducted and budgeted for. As an additional note, the Historical Society does not currently have funds to use on the Farnsworth Mansion.

6. New Business

A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Peter Suhr presented. In September, Public Services presented to the Government Services Committee an additional 137 ash trees had been identified as infested with the emerald ash borer (EAB); of those 27 were removed in October. This fall there was an increase in the number of trees confirmed, owing in part to our crews being more active and residents becoming more aware. The average confirmed in the summer months was 50-60/month. The average monthly removals are approximately 30.

The City has planted 300 trees this fall, and will have a second planting of 100 trees for a total of 400 trees. The typical fall tree-planting program is 250-300 trees. The increase in trees is an effort to keep up with the increased removals due to the EAB.

In October, a joint meeting with the Batavia Tree Commission was held. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss common concerns. Suzi Myers stated that the Batavia Tree Commission was impressed with the City of St. Charles' efforts to combat this infestation. Members complimented the City's planning and budgeting. At present, Batavia is removing infected parkway trees, but is unable to replace them. Peter Suhr stated planning and budgeting for this issue began several years ago, and reviews of the program and budget revisions are ongoing.

In answer to questions raised by Commissioners, Peter Suhr stated that we generally plant a replacement tree in the same place as the removed tree; residents have input into the placement of trees. Some residents have chosen to plant two trees instead of one and others have upgraded the tree size; these residents have paid the additional costs. Peter Suhr also indicated that the City does watch the costs. The cost to replace a tree is approximately \$300, which includes installation. Actual tree price is approximately \$100 or less.

B. News or Concerns from Public Works

Presented by Peter Suhr. A burn is scheduled for Riverside Park on November 11, 2010; a large burn is planned for the area at Ohio Avenue and Kautz Road as well as several smaller burns at various ponds. Discussion is also underway with the Park District for a burn at Langum Woods. Timing is not definite as it depends on the weather and conditions.

Jim Nau asked about budgets and the City's fiscal year. Peter Suhr responded that we are developing our budget submission at present. The City Council approves the budget request and the new budget is effective May 1. Peter Suhr agreed to make a presentation at the January meeting on Public Services budget requests as it relates to trees. The tree account includes costs for purchases, removals, plantings, and maintenance.

C. New Commissioner

Suzi Myers asked a person and told person to contact the Mayor if there was any interest. She will try to contact this person a second time. It was mentioned that the Batavia Tree Commission is fully staffed, and that a number of the members are City employees. Discussion followed regarding this as a possibility. Peter Suhr will check to verify if City employees are permitted to sit on the Commission. The ways new members are recruited are word of mouth, City publications, and local newspapers. Pat Konishi indicated that any print information regarding the Commission would need to be sent to Beth Mund. If articles are written they could also be sent to Pat Konishi to then forward to Beth Mund.

Jim Nau commented a Chair. is needed for the Publicity Committee. Jim Nau and Suzi Myers will prepare a statement for publication and send to Pat Konishi, to be reviewed by Peter Suhr prior to publication.

D. Discussion from Joint Tree Commission Meeting

Presented by Jim Nau. Joint meeting with the Batavia Tree Commission allowed both Commissions to discuss similar concerns and view the similarities and differences in the groups and how each operates. The members from Batavia were impressed with the relationship our Public Services Division has with the governing bodies of the City of St. Charles on issues regarding trees, in particular the EAB infestation. The City of Batavia Tree Commission could not offer any advice on dealing with "pesky" trees because no formal policy exists.

Jim Nau related that a request for tree removal from a resident on 4th Street went to the Government Services Committee (GSC). The Tree Commission had previously denied the request. Peter Suhr said that the GSC upheld the Tree Commission's position.

E. Discussion on City Forestry Plan/Ordinance

Presented by Jim Nau. Discussions had been held with members of the Public Services Division and some of the Commissioners regarding development of an Urban Forestry Plan. Jim Nau has contacted Edith Makra of the Morton Arboretum regarding these types of plans. Peter Suhr and Ben Deutsch have also collected information from other communities. Local communities surveyed have only an ordinance; much of the information regarding urban forestry

plans has come from other states. Jim Nau feels we have core information that needs to be developed into a plan. It was determined that members of the Commission will meet with members of the Public Services Division to form an outline defining the concept of the plan, which would then be presented to the City Council. It was stressed this would be a concept of what the Commission would like to pursue. The final goal would be to develop an Urban Forestry Plan that would support the existing ordinance. One item that could be addressed in this plan would be handling of native, legacy trees that are now considered "nuisances".

7. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee

None.

B. Publicity Committee

Jim Nau would like to have a Chair. for this Committee by January 2011 in preparation for Arbor Day.

C. Arbor Day Committee

Presented by Jim Nau. Discussion held regarding activities from last year that would be continued for Arbor Day 2011. Pat Konishi provided copies of information from last year's activities including essay contest, coloring contest, e-Den article, Weekly Wire article, and an Arbor Day Press Release.

Ron Ziegler made suggestions of activities that would engage older children or even adults:

- Obtaining saplings to be distributed for planting. Last year the City did provide saplings to participants in the Arbor Day Celebration.
- Displaying posters with pictures of trees and use them as a challenge to identify the tree species.
- Photo contest.

Activities agreed to by the Commission for the 2011 Arbor Day Celebration:

- Rick Weals to provide music - Jim Nau will contact.
- Jim Nau will contact Midwest Groundcover regarding donating plants for participants.
- Color Guard
- Ask Graf Tree to provide an activity such as they have done in past.
- Peter Suhr and Ben Deutsch will research possible candidates to receive the Stewardship Plaque.
- Morton Arboretum will be asked to provide a speaker.

- Coloring event will continue.
- Essay contest will be put on hold this year; a new event, a photo contest, will be conducted instead.

Specific details on the activities will be developed in the January meeting to facilitate publicity. Publicity will be prepared when details are confirmed so that publication is done in a timely fashion. These will include: press releases, the City website, the Weekly Wire and the e-Den. Jim Nau will provide Pat Konishi with a short article on the Arbor Day celebration by December 2, 2010 for the Den to be published in January that covers January, February and March.

8. Communications

Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports

Motion by Phil Zavitz, second by Suzi Myers to accept the September/October 2010 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Report as presented.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Valerie Blaine, Chris Scott. Motion carried.

9. Comments

A. Commissioners

Jim Nau indicated that he and Suzi Myers would try to meet with Peter Suhr to continue discussion on the Urban Forestry Plan. In the January meeting he would like further discussion on that plan in addition to the Arbor Day celebration details.

B. Staff

None

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ron Ziegler, second by Phil Zavitz to adjourn meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Voice vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: Valerie Blaine, Chris Scott. Motion carried.