



ST. CHARLES  
SINCE 1834

### AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Tree Commission Minutes

Presenter: Peter Suhr

*Please check appropriate box:*

<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government Services 05.23.11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning & Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	City Council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Estimated Cost: N/A      Budgeted: YES  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. October 2010, March 2011, and April 2011 meeting minutes are attached.

**Attachments: (please list)**

Tree Commission Minutes – October 2010, March 2011, April 2011

**Recommendation / Suggested Action (briefly explain):**

For Your Information.

*For office use only:*      *Agenda Item Number: 2\*b*

**CITY OF BATAVIA**  
**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE**  
**BATAVIA TREE COMMISSION AND ST. CHARLES TREE COMMISSION**  
**October 27, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. – Public Works Facility**  
**200 N. Raddant Rd., Batavia, Illinois**

**1. Meeting Called To Order**

Chairman Scott Haines called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the City of Batavia Public Works Facility, located at 200 North Raddant Road in Batavia, Illinois.

**Batavia Tree Commission:**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Scott Haines, Bob Lootens, John Dillon, Dr. Bill Whiteside, Kevin Summers; City Arborist Frank Saupp

**Members Absent:** Commissioners Gary Holm and Chuck Siegler

**Also Present:** Kathy Montanari, Recording Secretary

**St. Charles Tree Commission:**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Jim Nau, Suzi Myers, Valerie Blaine, and Pam Otto

**Members Absent:** Commissioners Christopher Scott, Phil Zavitz, and Ron Ziegler

**Also Present:** Ben Deutsch, Public Services Division Manager/City Arborist

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the meeting minutes from August 11, 2010

**Maker:** Saupp

**Second:** Dillon

**Voice Vote:** 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent

Minutes placed on file and to be sent to City Council for acceptance

**3. Discussion: Emerald Ash Borer**

Scott Haines gave an overview of how the Emerald Ash Borer infestation is being addressed in Batavia. He is considering using the Arbor Jet treatment next year. There have been approximately one hundred ash removals in 2010. Ben Deutsch commented that of the approximately 5,400 parkway ash trees in St. Charles, about 1,100 had been removed thus far. All trees with confirmed infestation have been marked. Earlier in the fall residents with parkway ash trees received a letter that EAB was in the area; it included treatment options and signs of infestation. St. Charles treated 200 trees with the Safari product. They received a commitment from the supplier that the product would be provided for a total of four years. St. Charles is in the process of tagging trees currently being treated. There has been no noticeable difference between treated and non-treated trees in a control area. St. Charles has been replacing parkway trees that are removed "as budget allows" with a 2.5" diameter tree. The Safari product is root

injected (into the soil) and the process takes about 15 minutes per tree. Deutsch is presently trying to negotiate a special rate for residents who wish to treat their trees. Another product, Arbor Jet, is injected into the base of a tree using a small gun. Triage is the third product that can be used, but the injection hole is rather large.

John Dillon asked if there is any value to the wood from ash tree removals. Deutsch said it can be used for firewood. Pam Otto noted that Edith Makra of Morton Arboretum has a network of woodworkers that can use the wood. Kevin Summers pointed out that firewood dealers have to be licensed with the State of Illinois and have a compliance agreement on file. Vessel will also accept the wood if it has been tub ground.

In response to a question regarding notifications, Deutsch said that approximately 1,900 letters were sent to residents with parkway ash trees. Haines indicated that when EAB has been identified in a private ash tree, a letter is sent recommending that it be removed. If the tree later becomes hazardous, it must be removed. He has sent about 30-40 notifications and about half of those trees were removed.

Commissioners then discussed how other agencies address the EAB infestation. Deutsch commented that St. Charles has a short list of local companies that are qualified to do removals and it can be provided to residents at their request. St. Charles does not require tree trimmers to be licensed. Summers said there is a link on the Illinois Arborist Associations website that lists compliant companies in the state. Any tree trimmers working in the Village of South Elgin must present proof of a compliance agreement.

#### **4. Discussion: Topics of Mutual Interest**

There was a general discussion about Batavia's update to its forestry ordinances which removed all disease-specific references. Other topics of discussion included improper mulching and appeals by residents to protest parkway tree removals. Haines told commissioners that the City of Batavia handles parkway tree plantings for all new residential developments.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by  
Kathy Montanari

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
TREE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011**

**Members Present:** Chair. Jim Nau, Vice-Chair. Suzi Myers, Valerie Blaine, Phil Zavitz, Ron Ziegler

**Members Absent:** Pam Otto, Chris Scott

**Others Present:** Pat Konishi, Richard Gallas, Ralph Grathoff

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Chair. Jim Nau at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Introductions of Visitors and Comments and Concerns**

Jim Nau introduced Ralph Grathoff who is considering applying for an open Commissioner position on the Tree Commission.

**Omnibus Vote**

**4. Recommend approval of January 2011 Minutes**

Motioned by Ron Ziegler, second by Phil Zavits to approve omnibus vote as amended.

Amend Section 6A Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), first paragraph, second to last sentence as follows: Delete entire sentence "For residents whose private trees are infested with EAB, the city is considering giving a discount on the purchase of a new tree." and replace with "The City is working with local tree vendors to establish a discounted rate that would be available to residents looking to replace and install an infected ash tree on private property."

**Voice vote:** Yeas: P. Zavits, R. Ziegler, J. Nau, V. Blaine, S. Myers; Nays: None; Absent: P. Otto, C. Scott - Motion carried.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Langum Park Follow-Up**

**Jim Nau presented.** At past meetings, discussion was held regarding enlisting the aid of 135 students (through a Park District Program explained at January's meeting by guest Lisa O'Brien) to assist in the clean up of Langum Park. Students would be available April 21, 2011.

The purpose of the clean up is to develop Langum Woods to a more usable area for residents, with paths, ecologically restore oak hickory woodland, and be an integral part of developing an urban forestry plan.

Concerns raised regarding April 21: scope of work on that day, tools to be used and who would provide, supervision of students, timing, security for Public Works Facility that adjoins Langum Woods, liability, and City approval (Langum Woods is City property).

Following discussion, a course of action was developed.

- Jim Nau and Suzi Myers would meet with Peter Suhr to develop a plan of work for April 21. The plan would encompass creating a strategy to provide safe access to visitors and would be an incremental step for future activity in Langum Woods. The final goal of the Commission is to bring education and restoration to the woods. This first phase of the plan would be presented to the Government Services Committee (GSC) for approval.
- Valerie Blaine will attend the GSC meeting on March 28 on behalf of the Tree Commission to present this plan to the Committee in an effort to gain approval to perform suggested activities at Langum Woods. Richard Gallas will insure that the Tree Commission presentation is added to the GSC agenda for March 28.
- In addition, the Commission would obtain the necessary paper work from District 303 adding the City of St. Charles as additionally insured for the work being performed.

Additional discussion was held concerning the utilization of the students on a different project in the event approval is not received in the time frame necessary to conduct work at Langum Woods.

#### **B. EAB Grant**

**Jim Nau presented.** The City applied for a \$20,000 grant that if awarded would be used to replant trees removed due to being infected with the Emerald Ash Borer in the industrial area of the City. Richard Gallas reported the City was unsuccessful in receiving the grant.

#### **C. City Forestry Plan/Ordinance**

Public Works has provided the commission with several different urban forestry plans as examples; Edith Makra of the Morton Arboretum has also provided information on the issues that may be considered for inclusion in an urban forestry plan. The subject of legacy trees and the manner to address these concerns is important to the Commissioners. A legacy tree is a tree that was planted in the past, but now poses a concern for residents. Concerns from residents have been raised regarding debris or messy conditions from specific tree species.

In the future, a presentation will be made to GSC detailing what the Commission is working on. When a draft/working copy is composed, it will be available to the entire commission to review and edit as necessary.

**6. New Business**

**A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

**Richard Gallas presented.** An additional 199 trees were identified as being infected with the EAB in February. Of those, 162 were in the northwest quadrant of the City, which has been the hardest hit area. Public Services has proposed removing 42 ash trees in March.

**B. News and Concerns from Public Works**

None.

**C. New Commissioner**

There are currently two (2) open positions on the Commission. Guest Ralph Grathoff is considering applying. Public Services supplied information on the process (sending a letter to the Mayor) in response to an additional request.

**7. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

None.

**B. Publicity Committee**

Information combined with Arbor Day Committee.

**C. Arbor Day Committee**

**Presented by Jim Nau.** Using examples from last year and changing the specifics could be used for this year's publicity. This same information or article could be used for all forms of publicity. Pat Konishi detailed the resources available through the City. These included: the Weekly Wire, the City's e-newsletter, the City website, press releases, and Neighbor's of St. Charles Magazine. It was noted that all information for publication must go through Beth Mund, Community and Public Affairs Division Manager. All information, including contest instructions, should be submitted to Public Works (P. Konishi or I. Soderlind) for distribution.

Phil Zavitz indicated his wife wrote articles for the Kane County Chronicle. He suggested they contact his wife to possibly create article on Arbor Day.

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

- Music
- Plants for each attendee
- Color Guard
- Tree activity
- Speaker
- Coloring event
- Photo Contest

Details:

- Rick Weals to provide music - Jim Nau will contact.
- Midwest Groundcover will donate plants for participants.
- Color Guard - Phil Zavits and Chris Scott to arrange with the American Legion and the Boy Scouts. Phil Zavitz will coordinate with Chris Scott on the specifics.
- Chris Scott of Graf Tree will prepare a tree demonstration of a rescue of an injured person from a tree. In conjunction with the rescue, the Cub Scouts will demonstrate wound treatment.
- The Morton Arboretum will provide a speaker for the event.
- Coloring Contest - Picture for Coloring Contest of Langum Woods was provided and the instructions created. It will be put on the City website. In the past, multiple copies were provided for distribution to the library, park district programs, etc. Due to the timing, this distribution may not be possible. Pat Konishi will scan the picture and the instructions and email to the Commissioners so they may distribute.
- Photo Contest - Open to 6<sup>th</sup> graders through adult, subject matter is trees including any part of tree such as leaves or bark. Distribution may be, but is not limited to the City website and press releases to local newspapers. Details were created such as: the picture must be digital, provide name and address.
- A memorial ceremony honoring Peter Grathoff, a founding member of the Tree Commission, is planned. Suzi Myers has notified the family so they may be in attendance; a tree will be planted in Peter Grathoff's honor. Ralph Grathoff, who was a guest at the meeting, indicated he and his business partners would be willing to provide a tree for this purpose.

**8. Communications**

**Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports**

Motion by Suzi Myers, second by Phil Zavitz to accept the January/February 2011 Communications-Electric Division/Tree Activity Report as presented.

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**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: None - Absent: P. Otto, C. Scott - Motion carried.

**9. Comments**

**A. Commissioners**

Ron Ziegler thanked Ralph Grathoff for attending the meeting and both he and Suzi Myers expressed hope that Ralph Grathoff would choose to join the Commission.

**B. Staff**

None

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Suzi Myers, second by Phil Zavitz to adjourn meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**Voice vote:** unanimous; Nays – None; Absent: None - Absent: P. Otto, C. Scott - Motion carried.

/pjk

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
TREE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011**

**Members Present:** Chair. Jim Nau, Chris Scott, Phil Zavitz, Ron Ziegler

**Members Absent:** Valerie Blaine, Suzi Myers, Pam Otto

**Others Present:** Ben Deutsch, Pat Konishi, Peter Suhr

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by Chair. Jim Nau at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Introductions of Visitors and Comments and Concerns**

**Omnibus Vote**

**4. Recommend approval of October 2010 and March 2011 Minutes**

No action taken because quorum was not met.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Langum Park Follow-Up**

**Jim Nau presented.** At past meetings, discussion was held regarding enlisting the aid of 135 students (through a Park District Program explained at January's meeting by guest Lisa O'Brien) to assist in the clean up of Langum Park. Students would be available April 21, 2011.

Peter Suhr presented the plan to the Government Services Committee (GSC) meeting which some of the Tree Commissioners attended to gain their approval for the activity to be performed on City property. The GSC was positive about the plan and approved the activity.

It was determined that on the April 19 several members of the Tree Commission would meet with Ben Deutsch at Langum Woods to lay out a path and determine which areas the students would clear and work on.

On April 21 the students would perform the actual work. As this was a school project, the program would provide the required chaperones and required tools. Suzi Myers would be present on that day to provide direction as needed on the tasks. In addition, Suzi Myers and

several members of the Tree Commission would be present as a show of their support of the students and the project.

Following the cleanup, the Tree Commission will evaluate the results and determine a plan for future activities at Langum Woods.

**B. Discussion on City Forestry Plan/Ordinance**

Tabled until next meeting.

**6. New Business**

**A. Update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

**Ben Deutsch presented.** An additional 167 trees were identified as being infected with the EAB in March. Public Services proposed removing 89 ash trees in April. Parkway trees that are identified as being infected are marked with a purple dot. If the City is notified that the tree is being treated, a notation of treatment type is made to assist in monitoring progression of the infestation.

The City will again apply Safari to treat City trees infected with the EAB. At this date, all residential parkway trees that have been removed have been or are being replaced. The spring planting program will begin in late April with 225 trees to be planted.

Ben Deutsch stated that at this time it appears the borer only attacks ash trees, not other species. It is the hope that with time the EAB will become a secondary pest. The City is continually researching and expanding the planting list. There are approximately 40 tree varieties currently on our list as acceptable trees for parkways.

**B. Spring Planting Update**

Subject covered in 6A above.

**C. News and Concerns from Public Works**

**Ben Deutsch presented.** There is a large tree in the Bakersfield area with a large hollow that may necessitate removal of the tree. He informed the resident that the tree may have to come down; the resident was concerned about the changes in this area over the past number of years and questioned the City's tree preservation activities. This area has lost many trees due to the maturity of the trees. The resident is waiting for another response from Ben Deutsch. If the tree is scheduled for removal at a later date, the concern may come before the Tree Commission. The tree in question is a Norway maple, and this is an example of a concern that could be addressed in the Urban Forestry Plan.

**D. New Commissioner**

Ralph Grathoff had expressed an interest in joining the Commission. No notice from the Mayor's office has been received as of this date.

**7. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

No report.

**B. Publicity Committee**

No report.

**C. Arbor Day Committee**

**Presented by Jim Nau.**

Activities for Arbor Day:

- Music – Rick Weals
- Plants for each attendee – donated by Midwest Groundcovers
- Color Guard – American Legion and Boy Scouts
- Tree activity – presented by Graf Tree and Boy Scouts
- Speaker – Morton Arboretum – “Every Tree Counts”
- Coloring event – Pictures have been received and will be displayed at the Arbor Day Celebration
- Photo Contest – One photo has been received. It will be included in the program and displayed at the Arbor Day Celebration. Both the coloring contest entries and the photo will be put on display in a display window at City Hall following the event.
- Memorial in honor of Peter Grathoff will be made by Suzi Myers; a tree will be planted in his honor. The tree has been obtained by Ben Deutsch. A plaque will also be made to be posted by the tree.

**8. Communications**

**Electric Division/Tree Activity Reports**

No action taken on the January/February 2011 Communications-Electric Division Tree Activity Report because quorum was not met.

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**9. Comments**

**A. Commissioners**  
None.

**B. Staff**  
None

**10. Adjournment**

No action taken because quorum was not met. Meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

/pjk