

**CITY OF AURORA
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, February 16, 2016**

The Aurora Tree Commission met for a work session meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at City Hall Council Chambers for the purpose of holding a regular meeting. Chairman Deborah Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Deborah Davis – Chairman
Rob Swaney – Vice Chainman
Laurena Entsminger
Kim Pease
Martha Sickinger
James Vaca Sr
Jim Tomko

Absent:

Also Present: Ben Askren - Arborist
Colleen Martin –Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Jim Vaca moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2016, Dr. Jim Tomko seconded and the motion was passed, 7–0 with a voice vote, with correction.

Correction: Change the year from 2015 to 2016 in February 16th agenda.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Hosting Tree City USA: Mr. Askren stated the opportunity to host the Tree City USA in 2017 has come up and the City of Aurora has agreed to host it. It will be held at the Berthram on May 10, 2017. There will be a committee formed to organize the event and this year's host from Westlake will pass their organization information on to us in the next few months.

Hosting Software Symposium: Mr. Askren stated he would be hosting a symposium to arborist, state forester, and arboretum personnel around 20 people will be there. It will be

held at the Walker Building on February 17, 2016 from 1 – 4. The class members will learn how to work the tree software program that they have.

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Mulching at Sunny Lake Park: Mr. Askren stated he will be mulching 300 trees at SLP on Saturday, May 21st and invited the commission members to help. It will be held in two shifts times 8am to 12 noon and 12 noon to 4:00pm. Boy scouts are coming, It was suggested he make a flyer up for Girl Scouts and different groups that need service work credits such as the 8th grade at Valley Christian School they helped with the cleaning up of the Liz Strahan playground, the Church of Aurora young adults, key club kids at Aurora Schools. Rotary staff will provide a hot dog lunch.

OLD BUSINESS:

Advocate Article: Mr. Askren stated an article on proper tree planting will be submitted in the middle of March. It was suggested he put a visual in the article is possible,

Calendar Review: Add the following dates, April 25th Council meeting for the Landscape Awards presentation, May 21st for mulching at SLP.

Tree Fund Ordinance: Nothing at this time.

Corridor of Beauty: Ms. Davis stated as we talked at the last meeting the commission will be putting a proposal to the Mayor explaining what the commission wanted to accomplish through the historic district in close association with businesses. Once the Mayor approves the project it will move forward. The Commission discussed what they wanted to put in the letter to send to the Mayor.

Tree Museum: Mr. Vaca stated he has attended the Recreation Advisory Committee meeting to make sure they had moved the soccer fields away from the Audubon Society side. Dr. Tomko stated no one from the City had contacted the Audubon Society about this project. Recently since this project has begun he has had a meeting with Mr. Kraus (Parks and Recreation Director) and expressed his concern for the wildlife having the fields close to the Audubon property on Townline Rd. Mr. Vaca stated as of last night's Recreation Advisory Committee meeting they discussed that the soccer fields would be moved. This will allow the tree museum to be placed on that side and away from the Audubon property line.

Mr. Vaca stated the plan was approved at the Recreation Ad Hoc Committee and passed to the Recreation Advisory Committee, but this plan has not been presented to Council yet due to its still being formulated with the architect. Discussion was held on the grant available. Mr. Askren stated per Mr. Kraus (Parks & Recreation Director) there is \$50,000 that was awarded over 10 years ago from a state representative that was funneled through the Ohio Cultural Facility Commission which is now the Ohio Facility Construction Commission.

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If we don't use it this year we will lose it, but because it is through the cultural commission it has to be cultural, historical or educational. Mr. Askren stated the tree museum qualifies for this which enables us to start this year and will have to be completed by November, 2017.

Mr. Vaca stated this will be tree museum not an arboretum. He suggested that Mr. Askren send the Recreation Advisory Committee a packet of what the tree museum will look like and explanation of what will be done.

ARBORIST REPORT:

Mr. Askren reported on the following:

Tree Fund Ordinance

In Councils hands – Talked to other Developers about money vs. planting.

Advocate Article.

“Tree Planting 101” will be submitted at the end of February for a 30th of March Printing.

Spring Planting

Trees have been ordered from Klyn Nursery and the tree planter will be The Green Leaf Group.

Will be visiting nursery on the 18th of March. Trees should be delivered two weeks after that.

Spring Maintenance

196 trees at the Chatham Estates and another 200 trees at the Wood of Aurora have been pruned by Northeast Tree. Young trees in Chatham Estates and Wellington have been trained by city crews.

Pruning of 100 trees will be completed by Northeast in Wellington.

Tree Removal

Will be removing 6 large trees between athletic fields on the south end of Kiwanis-Moore Park.

Trees will be replaced this spring.

Tree Root Pruning

Will finish up before the end of March
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Tree Museum

Will break ground in August and should be planting in the spring of 2017. Have \$50,000 for trees.

Tree City USA

Aurora will be hosting Tree City USA on May 10th 2017 at the Bertram.

Miscellaneous

The Tree Commission will be participating along with the Aurora Rotary and the Boy Scouts in the 1st Annual Sunny Lake Tree Garden Mulching Fest on Saturday May 21st.

The City of Aurora will be hosting a “Tree Tracker” Symposium at the Walker Building on the 17th of February from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

ISA Tree Care Conference in Sandusky at the Kalihari Resort and Convention Center – 28 Feb – March 1

The North Coast Urban Forestry Conference – Friday March 11th

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Entsminger stated she was asked to thank the Mayor for redoing Aurora Lake Road. It was very much appreciated by everyone in the area.

Tree Care Conference & North Coast Urban Forestry Conference. Mr. Askren stated will be attending the two conferences in the near future.

Arbor Day Celebration: Mrs. Pease stated the Arbor Day celebration will be on Friday, May 6th at Leighton school 2:30 to 3:25pm. Mrs. Pease asked if Mr. Askren would let the Mayor know.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Ms. Entsminger seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Deborah Davis – Vice Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary