

**CITY OF AURORA
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, March 15, 2016**

The Aurora Tree Commission met for a work session meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 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
Kim Pease
Martha Sickinger
Dr. Jim Tomko
James Vaca Sr.

Absent: Laurena Entsminger

Also Present: Ben Askren - Arborist
Madeleine Marazzi –Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Vaca moved to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016. Ms. Sickinger seconded and the motion was passed, 6–0 with a voice vote with corrections.

Corrections: under approval of minutes, change Dr. Vaca to Mr. Vaca under roll call, change date to February. Last paragraph change last sentence to reflect the statement better to There will be a committee formed to organize the event and this years host from Westlake will pass their organization information on to us in the next few months.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Arbor Day: Mrs. Pease stated Arbor Day celebration at Leighton school was scheduled for May 6th from 2:30 to 3:25. Mrs. Pease stated she will not be getting the posters until April 18th so we will have to judge them after the meeting, maybe at the Moebius Nature Center or at the Walker Building.

Mulching at SLP: Mr. Askren stated on Saturday, May 21st he is asking for volunteers to the first annual Sunny Lake Park tree garden mulching fest. There are over 300 trees to mulch and so far we have the Aurora Rotary helping out along with the Boy Scouts. Hot dogs are planned for lunch courtesy of the Aurora Rotary. The committee discussed where to put the flyers out for help.

OLD BUSINESS:

Advocate Article: Mr. Askren stated he will submit a tree planting 101 article in the Aurora Advocate soon.

Calendar Review: After reviewing the calendar nothing new was added. Mr. Askren stated we will be receiving the information from Westlake soon to give us the information for Aurora to host next years Tree City USA celebrations.

Tree Fund Ordinance: Nothing new at this time. Mr. Vaca stated he would look into it and see why it is not moving forward.

Corridor of Beauty- Letter for Mayor Review: The committee reviewed and adjusted the letter to be sent to the Mayor to encourage a corridor of beauty in the historic districts in Aurora. The secretary was asked to type up the letter and send to the Mayor for her endorsement.

Tree Museum: Dr. Tomko had a copy of the latest lay out of the property at the Hartman Park. Mr. Askren stated it has not been approved yet by Council but he is assuming it will be as placed on the drawing.

Mr. Askren stated he has met with the Holden Arboretum personnel so they could review his list and make sure the order is correct and help with technical information. In exchange we would put up a sign with their logo stating their help. Holden Arboretum personnel suggest Mr. Askren reach out to their high school as an educational tool for their students to help with the species. Mr. Askren stated he would be going to the Regional Ohio Extension office for more information. Mr. Askren stated his focus is to bring people to view trees in a different way.

Mr. Askren stated after attending the ISA Tree Care Conference in Sandusky he will be receiving a donation of a material to help the soil around trees. It is a new soil amendment that is carbon based. It will draw out all the impurities in the soil and activate all the microbiology in the soil a thousand fold. The microbiology animals have been inert because the nutrients in the soil are locked up due to all the chemicals and fertilizers used over the years. This product will break that up and release the nutrients in the soil which activates the microbiology a thousand fold.

It has been seen that it breaks up the soil up to 18 inches in a year. Mr. Askren stated it will be provided to him as a test for free and he will be incorporating this in the tree museum.

Mr. Swaney asked if someone would be coming to look at the soil. Mr. Askren stated he will be having the soil tested to be adjusted if needed.

Ms. Davis suggested we take before and after pictures for a presentation at the Tree City USA to show what is being done in Aurora.

Mr. Askren stated he is hoping to establish a greenhouse because he will need to start the more unusual species from seed.

Some discussion was made on donations and ways to keep the tree museum maintained.

ARBORIST REPORT:

Tree Fund Ordinance

Another resident complaint about not having any trees planted on her street

Advocate Article.

“Tree Planting 101” will be submitted at the end of March.

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

Complete

Tree Removal

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

Removed 4 large trees on Harmon Property. All Stumps will be ground up this week

Tree Root Pruning

Finished: Waiting for sidewalk work to begin this spring

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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.

Talked to the Holden Arboretum personnel for input on tree museum yesterday.

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. Brochure. Soil amendments using a carbon based product looks like something we should use in Aurora when we plant our trees.

Ordered more signs for Sunny Lake Tree Garden/Staked 6 trees that were leaning/straightened signs

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mrs. Pease asked about the tree behind the Moebius Nature Center that needs to be taken down part way. Mr. Askren stated it was due to come down that week.

Mr. Vaca asked who maintains the trees on the first nine holes of the former golf course, because there were some that are dead. Mr. Askren stated he would go and look at the area.

Mr. Vaca stated there was a citizen on California Street that is trying to save her tree from being topped by Ohio Edison. It is a flowering crab tree that will never reach the height to interfere with the high tension wire. The scientific name has to be included in a letter the homeowner will have to write to the company to save the tree. Mr. Vaca asked Mr. Askren to help out with this.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Mr. Vaca seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Deborah Davis – Vice Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary