

**CITY OF AURORA
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

The Aurora Tree Commission met for a work session meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at Moebius Nature Center 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
Laurena Entsminger
Kim Pease
Martha Sickinger
Rob Swaney – Vice Chainman
James Vaca Sr.

Absent: Dr. Jim Tomko

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Vaca moved to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2016. Ms. Sickinger seconded and the motion was passed, 6–0 with a voice vote with corrections.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

May Meeting Cancellation: After discussion, due to attending Tree City USA awards ceremony, the Committee decided to cancel the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Advocate Article: Mr. Askren submitted an article on planting and asked for the picture to be included. The article was in the paper but no picture. The next article may be on Asian Longhorn Beetle that is attacking the maple trees.

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Calendar Review: after reviewing the calendar the only change was to cancel the May meeting. The Committee discussed having a booth at the 4th Festival.

Tree Fund Ordinance: Mr. Askren stated he recently had a meeting with the Mayor, Jim Kraus (Parks and Recreation Director) and Denise Januska (Planning & Zoning Director) and it sounded like it will be going forward. Mr. Askren stated he would find out the status by next meeting.

Corridor of Beauty – letter to business: Ms. Davis asked if the Committee wanted to discuss a rough draft of an introduction letter to be sent to the business and homes in the historic district about beautifying their area. It was decided to submit ideas and to include general plants for sun and shade to use, and different container ideas. A rough draft would be done including the plant ideas to be finalized. Ms. Davis would like to hand deliver the letters and ideas.

Tree Museum: Mr. Vaca stated Council has approved the project. \$50,000 from a grant is being used for creating the tree museum. Per the grant stipulation the project has to be done by November 17, 2017. Mr. Askren stated he would be breaking ground and starting the process in August.

Mulching at SLP: Mr. Askren stated he was expecting a large group to help with mulching trees at the commemorative tree garden and trees along the path at SLP, on Saturday, May 21st.

Arbor Day: Mrs. Pease stated the ceremony was planned for May 6th at Leighton School at 2:30 – 3:25. There will be activities with the children and some give away items for the winners of the poster and poetry contest.

ARBORIST REPORT:

Spring Planting

Over 200 Trees have been delivered and are being planted by The Green Leaf Group. All sites have been flagged and letters sent out with tree care brochure. 86 trees at Yorkshire Estates, 76 trees City Wide. Should be completed by the end of this month. Park staff has planted 15 trees to replace dead trees and Maple Mill. Will plant 12 oaks at the path between the ball fields. Will Plant one memorial tree in back of the back stop at field #4. Will replace two trees at the Memorial Tree Garden and two

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sweetgums by the fence at the cemetery on the backside of the athletic fields off of Pioneer Trail.
Have 5 large baldcypress to plant behind Deed House.

Spring Maintenance

Pruned trees on triangle where Deed House is located and three lindens by gazebo.

Tree Museum

Did a soil test on the area where trees are to be planted. Results; pH a little low and should incorporate more soil amendments with lime. Have a commitment from Plant Growth Management Systems to donate the soil conditioners this summer. He is currently working on signage.

Tree Garden

Ordered the last 100 green signs to replace the old white ones.
Mulching party May 21st

Tree City USA

There is a meeting scheduled on May 3rd at 10:00 A.M. for Aurora TCUSA committee to learn the ropes for Hosting next year's event.
May 10th is this year's Tree City is Westlake, Ohio

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mrs. Pease was concerned about the pine trees getting hit by the lawn mower. She asked if mulching could be put further out from the trees.

Mr. Vaca stated the trees and planters by the Geauga lake area on Rt.43 are in bad shape and should be fixed up and replanted.

Mr. Vaca asked who is responsible for the dead trees along golf course. Mr. Askren stated he would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Ms. Etsminger seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:35p.m.

Deborah Davis – Vice Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary