

Findlay Shade Tree Commission (FSTC) Meeting Minutes May 4, 2021

Meeting was held Tuesday May 4 at 4 pm, in the Municipal Building Main Conference Room (3rd floor). This was the first face-to-face meeting of the commission in over a year, socially distanced around the table and wearing masks.

Attendance: Tom Mills, Jennifer Pullen, Jim Niemeyer, Brian Bauman, Ben Dolan, Ed Crawford, Tim Brugeman, Dave Honse, AJ Copus, Jeremy Kalb. All introduced themselves.

Welcome & Elections Tom welcomed everyone, mentioned we all share some responsibilities on the Board, and need to step up to get involved. We need to elect officers now that we have a full Board, and asked for volunteers. The following officers were nominated, accepted and unanimously approved: Tom Mills – Chair, Ed Crawford – Vice Chair, Tim Brugeman - Secretary

Minutes from April 6, 2021 ZOOM meeting distributed, considered. Ben made motion, Jennifer seconded and Minutes unanimously approved as is.

Financial Report as of 5/4/2021 distributed. Tom discussed highlights and a few details explained. Ed made motion, Ben seconded and Financial Report approved as is. Thanks to City Council and the Administration for this year's funds.

Reports:

- **City Council Representative** – Jim: City Council will have Jim continue as Tree Commission rep. No other information for Tree Commission from Council at this time.
- **Service Safety Director** – Rob Martin has been appointed new Service Safety Director by Mayor Muryn and will be joining us in the future.
- **Public Works Department (PWD)** – Dave and AJ mentioned about trees planted in recent weeks. Possibilities of risk assessment training yet this year. All complimented them on tree plantings.
- **Engineering Department** – Jeremy welcomed as new City Engineer recently appointed by the Mayor. He is very familiar with FSTC from years of involvement. He highlighted a few projects involving trees on city projects.

Old Business:

- **Tech Update** – Ben mentioned student work to help structure some new information about the FSTC. Any news goes directly to the Mayor for her posting on Facebook.
- **Arbor Day** – Tom highlighted planting a Hackberry tree selected by Bigelow Hill students for Arbor Day planting April 23 with great weather, all the students participating, Mayor with a Proclamation, school administrators, Dave Honse (PWD) and some FSTC members present. Next year Chamberlin Hill School will host Arbor Day 2022.
- **NeighborWoods** – Brian will be joined by Ben & Ed over the summer to shape a NeighborWoods planting program planned for October 14. Notices, residents participating, tree locations and orders will need to be confirmed late August, early September. Brian will call group together.
- **GOAL Development Update** – Tom referred to the 2021 GOALS list, some have already been completed, others are underway, and thanked everyone for their efforts. Lots yet to do.

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- **Canopy Cover Project** – University of Findlay Student Molly Elizabeth Newsome presented her DRAFT report of findings from her remote location. Charts, graphs and interesting findings about Findlay's tree canopy conditions since 1994, compared to other nearby communities are being finalized. A final report will be given at our August 3 meeting. Members exchanged questions, comments and compliments. All thanked Molly for her efforts. This is a cutting-edge study for looking at a community's urban forest. We are glad Findlay can be featured.
- **Tree Ordinance Review** – a subgroup has met, will meet again (TBA) lead by Tom Mills, to review the current tree ordinance for any updates. City Law Director Don Rasmussen is assisting.
- **Brookside Drive & CR 236 Tree plantings** – FSTC members met at sites, help select tree types and locations in recent weeks. Dave / AJ (PWD) planted several dozen nice big trees, now leafing out and will be watered periodically. Both areas are a great improvement with the trees.
- **Other** – Brian discussed FSTC / Tree City USA Street banners needed to replace worn ones. Dave / AJ will work with Brian to check good ones and prices for new ones, with approval at our August 3 meeting. Banners usually go up late April through summer.

New Business:

- **2022 Tree City USA NW Ohio Event** – Findlay, University of Findlay, Arcadia and Ottawa Tree Commissions had agreed to jointly host the 2022 **Tree City USA Awards** event for NW Ohio with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Urban Forestry. Today, reps met to rough out plans at U of F with Stephanie Miller (ODNR). Tentative dates are May 11 or 18, 2022, in Winebrenner, featuring various speakers, exhibitors, lunch and awards program. Next year will be the first time in Findlay, and first time in 3 years for all to gather for this event in person. Over 200 participants from communities around NW Ohio, city and state leaders, and possibly the Governor are being invited as plans are completed this fall. Brian asked we keep Kathy Launder and Mayor informed.
- **A Reminder, Findlay has a Common Hackberry, like no other!** It is listed on the National Register of Champion Trees (see americanforests.org, official 2020 register). It is located east of East Street, south of East Sandusky Street, in a back alley. Previously, property owners did not want it advertised to keep trespassers away. You can see it from an alley by the Jones Mansion...look up. It's HUGE!

No further business. Thanks to all for your support of the Tree Commission.

Next meeting: Tuesday August 3, 2021.

Motion to adjourn; unanimous.

Tim Brugeman