

Findlay Shade Tree Commission (FSTC) Meeting Minutes September 7, 2021

Meeting was held Tuesday September 7 at 4 pm, in the Municipal Building Main Conference Room (3rd floor).

Attendance: Tom Mills, Jim Niemeyer, Ed Crawford, Tim Brugeman, Jeremy Kalb.

Welcome & Notice of Vacancies: Tom welcomed everyone. He mentioned we have 2 current vacancies previously held by Jennifer Pollen & Ben Dolan, plus notice that when Brian Bauman moves to City Council in January 2022, there will be a third vacancy. Tom thanked Jennifer and Ben for their service. Tim asked if the residents who expressed interest, were recommended to serve, will be contacted for a possible appointment. Tom mentioned the names have been given to Kathy Launder to share with the Mayor.

Minutes from 5/4/2021 meeting were distributed. Ed mentioned it had listed him as Vice Chair when actually Brian was voted in. Tim also questioned the date of NeighborWoods tree plantings listed as 10/14, which is corrected as 10/9. Ed moved, Tim seconded with corrections and Minutes approved.

Financial Report as of 9/7/2021 distributed. Tom discussed highlights and a few details explained. Ed made motion, Tim seconded and Financial Report approved as is.

Calendar Timeline Reviewed. Most work items continue on schedule. Tim asked if any of us need to help with the Tree City USA renewal application due in early December. Tom mentioned Kathy Launder will be taking care of this with help of Public Works Dept. Adopt-A-Tree requests need to be field checked and tree species decided for ordering ASAP along with other trees for NeighborWoods. Tom will contact volunteers for assistance.

Reports:

- **City Council Representative** – Jim: No information for Tree Commission at this time.
- **Service Safety Director** – No report.
- **Public Works Department (PWD)** –No report.
- **Engineering Department** – Jeremy: Projects continue as previously reported.

Old Business:

- **Tech Update** – Since Ben Dolan who served on this topic is no longer on the Commission, efforts in this area are on hold. New Tree Commission volunteers needed.
- **Arbor Day** – Tom talked today to Misty Sager, Principal at Chamberlin School who will be preparing for Arbor Day activities into 2022. She will be working with her staff on both curriculum applications and plans for Arbor Day Friday April 29 2022. New Tree Commission volunteers needed to work with school.
- **NeighborWoods** – Brian has planned a tentative neighborhood meeting September 14 to review final tree orders to be available, details for the Saturday October 9 planting and what to expect between now and then. Notices, residents participating, tree locations and orders will need to be confirmed ASAP. A Neighborhood Urban Site Inventory will be tomorrow 9/8/2021 at 8:30 am in the Remington Street area with Dave Gasior former Tree Commission member, Jim, Tim and Tom. This will aid in determining trees for various streets.

CONTINUED next page

Findlay Shade Tree Commission (FSTC) Meeting Minutes 9/7/ 2021 – Page 2 of 2

- **Canopy Cover Project** – Tom and Jeremy previewed an AV presentation of the Findlay Tree canopy Project. University of Findlay Student Molly Elizabeth Newsome assisted by Ben Dolan has finished the final report with interesting results. Charts, graphs and findings about Findlay's tree canopy conditions since 1994, compared to other nearby communities, are now finalized. All thanked Molly, Ben and the University for their efforts. This is a cutting-edge study for looking at a community's urban forest. We are glad Findlay can be featured in this model. Tom will forward the report presentation link to all for review of the document on-line.
- **Tree Ordinance Review** – Subgroup has not been able to meet to continue their review of the current tree ordinance for any updates. Brian, Dave, AJ and Tom are working on this with GOAL to revise for approval in 2022. City Law Director Don Rasmussen is assisting.
- **2022 Tree City USA NW Ohio Awards Event** – Tim gave an update that plans are proceeding with reps from Findlay, University of Findlay, Arcadia and Ottawa Tree Commissions as the host groups. Date and the U of F Winebrenner Center have been confirmed for May 18, 2022. 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. Ed suggested banners to promote the event and welcome guests. We will keep Kathy Launder and the Mayor informed.
- **Other** – More Tree City USA banners are still hoped for before next year's NW Ohio Tree City USA awards event May 18 as guests visit Findlay. Dave / AJ will work with Brian to check good ones and prices for new ones. Banners usually go up late April through summer. Funds are available in this year's FSTC budget to purchase more.

New Business

- No new business.

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

Next meeting: Tuesday October 5, 2021 at 4 pm.

Motion to adjourn; Tim moved, Ed seconded, motion approved to adjourn.

Tim Brugeman