

Findlay Shade Tree Commission Meeting

Minutes – 4/4/17

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by chair T. Mills at 4pm

Present - T. Brugeman, J. Niemeyer, AJ Copus, J. Kalb, J. Williamson, R. Greeno

Minutes Reviewed – R. Greeno moved to accept the minutes as written and J. Williamson seconded the motion which carried.

Finance Report Reviewed – T. Brugeman moved to accept the finance report and R. Greeno seconded the motion which carried.

Reports – J. Niemeyer indicated that he had talked with Paul Schmelzer at the last council meeting about Dorney Plaza and shared the FSTC concerns.

AJ Copus reported that the green waste site is open and the hours are Tues. 2 – 7 and Sat. 8 – 1; the hours on April 22 will be from 8 – 4 to support the Backyard Mission program. He indicated that the city has taken down 6 trees and 12 more trees have been contracted for removal to Meyers Tree Service.

J. Kalb reported that there are a couple of projects in the works but none that involve trees. His role in the Dorney Plaza project hasn't been determined yet.

Old Business –

Hosting Tree City USA - The potential of Findlay hosting the Tree City USA Celebration in 2022 in conjunction with the University of Findlay, Arcadia and Ottawa was discussed. We talked about the benefits that the celebration can have for Findlay and what was involved. We would be asked to provide a meeting location for 220 – 250 people, developing and mailing an invitation, with lunch and a speaker being optional. The recent celebrations have had a meal and a speaker. The Division of Forestry takes care of the awards. Some of the celebrations have had vendors displaying their wares. Some of the celebrations have also had door prizes and other drawings. In a worst case scenario, if the FSTC in 2022 not want to host the celebration, it could back out. We will begin conversations with the other communities and the University of Findlay in the near future. Following the discussion, T. Brugeman moved to host the Northwest Ohio Tree City USA Celebration in 2022 in conjunction with the University of Findlay, Arcadia, and Ottawa. J. Williamson seconded the motion which passed. J. Niemeyer will advise City Council of the hosting possibility.

Lost Your Tree Card Status - T. Mills discussed the Lost Your Tree card and FSTC Rule No. 2 which deals with residents getting replacement trees. The Commission members were asked to review the two items and plan to discuss them in detail at the next meeting.

AJ Copus asked if the new rules were on the City website yet. K. Launder indicated that they are not posted yet. T. Brugeman will forward copies to her.

2017 Grant Status - T. Mills indicated that Findlay will not be applying for a planting grant for now due to major flood control plans for the rivers and stream banks.

Downtown Development Update - J. Kalb reported that the Downtown Redevelopment plans have been bid out and the trees will be adjusted using the FSTC recommended as the project proceeds rather than change the plans which would cost more. The trees will be planted in larger landscape area.

Dorney Plaza - R. Greeno reported that he, J. Kalb and T. Mills meet with Brett Gies of RCM to discuss the Dorney Plaza project. The project will include Kwanzan Cherry at the request of the Mayor to recognize Findlay's relationship with Japan. There is the realization that the cherry trees have problems with disease and insects and will need extra care. In our visit we stressed the need to determine who would be responsible for this care. We left Brett with a packet of information including our Tree Ordinance, some tree care info and contact information to help establish the fact that there is a Findlay Shade Tree Commission that is interested in trees and supporting groups that are working with trees.

Tree Survivor School - J. Williamson reported briefly on Tree Survivor School. He will report in full in May.

NeighborWoods - T. Brugeman reported on NeighborWoods. There are 23 trees paid for that will be planted on April 29. Fourteen trees will be planted in West Park starting at 8:30 am at 1828 Bliss Ave. and nine trees will be planted in South Ridge Estates starting at 9:30 am at 344 Marilyn Dr. Once the tree order is confirmed, a PO will be prepared and the order placed with delivery planned for April 25. The city will drill holes and deliver the trees and mulch on Fri. April 28. The sites will be OUPS before digging. T. Brugeman and T. Mills will collect the handouts and line up foresters and University of Findlay help. There will be a final note out to residents.

Arbor Day - T. Mills indicated that Arbor Day is set for May 8, 2017 at 1pm at Jacobs School. Carrie Allsop is working on the agenda with her students. The date is on the Mayors calendar. R. Greeno has met with Carrie to determine the planting sight and plans. He and the FSTC determined that a Tri color beech will be the tree to plant. T. Brugeman indicated a desire to coordinate a big after Arbor Day news article on Neighbor Woods, Arbor Day, the revised ordinance, etc. He has spoken with Denise Grant, with the Courier about it.

Marketing and Education Focus – The updated marketing list was reviewed. We'll try to work this in as we go this year. The one Tree City USA sign to be ordered has come in and is for Bright Rd and Tiffin Ave.

Other

I-75 Project - T. Mills indicated that he had met with Chris Hughes of ODOT about the I-75 project. Not many trees will be used, but he sent plans on the ones that will be planted at the Lima Ave. roundabouts. A forester shared that there are problems with the Autumn Blaze Maple but the Shadblow Serviceberry should be fine. The forester recommended Black Gum, Horse Chestnut and some Sweet Gums. The packet developed for Brett Gies will be sent to him. ODOT will be maintaining the roundabouts.

Other Tree Requests – T. Mills and AJ Copus have both received requests for replacement trees. None of these will be ordered with NeighborWoods. Mills and Copus will coordinate needs.

2017 Tree City USA Celebration Attend. And Funding – This celebration is set for May 3 at Lakeside, Ohio. T. Brugeman and T. Mills plan to attend and will pay their own way.

Coldwater Program – T. Mills shared a program that Coldwater uses to focus attention on selecting qualified tree care businesses and appropriate tree care. He asked the group to review the program and it will be discussed at our next meeting.

Adjournment – R. Greeno moved that the meeting be adjourned and J. Niemeyer seconded the motion which passed. The meeting adjourned at about 5:20 pm.