



**Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 4:00 pm
City Greenhouse**

Members Present: Jim Arthur, Cynthia Ball, Breann Hohman, John Parker, Joe Viviano, Commissioner Waddington

Staff Present: Scott Kromer, Tom Speir, Elisabeth Sowecke

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

Mr. Arthur reviewed the minutes from the February 27th meeting. No edits or additions were made.

Old Business

Those who attended the North Coast Urban Forestry Conference at Lakeland College in Kirtland, OH, indicated that the experience was worthwhile, including some good speakers and good food, in spite of car troubles along the way.

Members viewed the GIS dashboard print-out and were happy to be able to view the requested data. The GIS data is a work in progress and will change month to month. Ms. Hohman questioned whether proposed presenting use of GIS for tree inventory at the 2019 North Coast Urban Forestry Conference.

Based on the GIS data, Ms. Ball questioned whether stumps throughout the City that are not already registered in the system will eventually be removed and Mr. Kromer assured them that the Forestry team is working hard to catch-up and will continue to add trees and stumps as seen throughout the City. The Division of Forestry may bid a lump sum of stump removals in order to catch-up. Anyone who has questions or trees or stumps to report can call (419) 627-5884.

The balances of the Green Fund, Friends of the Greenhouse and the Greenhouse Endowment were reviewed.

New Business

Tree Updates from Tom Speir

Mr. Speir provided a list of trees to be planted in the spring and purchased from Acorn Farms. Ms. Hohman suggested announcing that trees are available for residents who have had a tree removed

and now desire a new tree. In addition, trees due to be planted at Pipe Creek this spring are currently being housed at the greenhouse.

There is a persistent request for removal of a locust tree on Remington Avenue. Mr. Speir reiterated that the City's policy that trees are not to be removed unless they are dead, dying or diseased. A different course can be taken by submitting a request for removal by a private contractor. On behalf of St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Comm. Murray has requested a tree to be planted in front on that property at 510 Columbus Avenue.

Mr. Speir is continuing to monitor the butchering of trees on Monroe St. The tree trimmers are becoming more aggressive. He is also looking to contact St. Mary's by the fall about property on out on Mills St.

Upcoming Events

The Arbor Day Poem reading will take place at 10:00 am and judging will take place at 11:00 am on April 20th at 11:00 am. Contest winners will receive prize bags and Ms. Ball will use proceeds from the Friends of Greenhouse fund to purchase prizes locally. Books and Toft's Dairy gift cards were suggested and supported as ideas for items for the bags.

Erie Soil and Water will host a Pipe Creek Clean-Up on April 21st.

The next Tree Commission meeting will take place on April 24th.

On April 28th, there will be an Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration, including a 10:30 am cook-out and activities. Tabling by the City Recreation Department, Erie Conservation District and Erie Solid Waste District was proposed. Ms. Hohman and Ms. Ball will handle outreach. A Crimson King tree will be removed from the tree lawn, east of the greenhouse and the ceremonial tree will be planted in its place. Comm. Waddington will present the proclamation prepared by Ms. Kresser.

Tree City USA awards ceremony is May 8th and the deadline to RSVP is April 20th. It is uncertain how attendance to the ceremony will be funded but Mr. Kromer will look into the matter.

Additional Items

Ms. Hohman informed us of the work being done a vacant property on First Street. In addition, Ms. Hohman and fellow staff at Erie Conservation District have planted 21,000 willow stakes as part of a project to remove invasive species. Dense planting of willow stakes leads to woody restoration.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Cynthia Ball
Chairperson

Melissa Vassallo
Clerk