

FOREST BOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 11, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor, Dorn Crawford, Chairperson Leah Netherland, City Forester Ryan Lewis, Nancy Shelton, Marie Eff, Dale Kinney, Rick Vissing, Mick Vissing, Sarah Hitt, Michael Blum and Gil Zinner.

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

MINUTES: Leah made a motion to accept the minutes without correction. Rick seconded the motion. All approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Leah reported that she, Jason and Nancy picked up trees at Clark County and 8 of those trees have been planted. There are 4 trees left to plant and Michael will be helping with two of those.

FORESTER REPORT:

Ryan reported that another round of hazard tree letters have been sent to homeowners.

He reported that he has assessed 81 dogwood trees in the 5 parks. The majority of the trees are in FAIR condition. Four trees need to be replanted at a proper depth, 3 in Henderson and 1 in Oriole. 33 trees have specific problems such as girdling roots, grade issues and would benefit from air knifing. Only 1-2 companies in our area do this work. Ryan suggested getting competitive bids but estimated a cost of \$300-\$500 per tree. Younger trees would benefit more. Grade needs to be adjusted out 3-5 feet. There was discussion about how to prioritize which trees to spend the money on.

Ryan stated that he has found it difficult to talk to homeowners about easement trees that need structural pruning so it is difficult to approach Limbwalker with a proposal about an easement tree pruning program. So far he has not sent letters to any homeowners about easement pruning.

Ryan has consulted on three trees with issues. One is a Tulip Poplar at 3119 Teal. Ryan will meet with Leah about this tree. The other two are a pin oak and a sweet gum at 3318 Robin. A letter is being sent to the homeowner about removal/trimming. Ryan also noted that there is an Ash at 1001 Audubon Parkway with severe trunk damage that he is recommending be removed. Dorn noted that this tree is on his daughter's property and stated that additional discussion needs to occur about competing objectives of preservation versus hazard before sending a letter.

BUDGET:

Leah reported tree planting expenses of \$325 and Forester expenses of \$590.

NEW BUSINESS:

Leah reported that hand pruning will be beginning on easement. Marie has made a list and there are 164 trees that we can do.

Marie reported on plans for a field trip to Cave Hill in May. The cost will be \$35 per person. Dates were discussed.

WORK DAY:

The annual parks walk through will take place on 10/14 at 9 am, beginning in Oriole. It is projected to take 3 hours.

Anytime after 10/14 mulch can be delivered to the middle of Oriole Park by the access road and another workday scheduled to spread it.

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Marie suggested that we tour each other's gardens next Spring.

Leah reported that she has a book on urban forestry that is being passed around to all members of the Forest Board.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

SIGNATURE OF
CHAIRPERSON _____

DATE _____