

CITY OF DEXTER
TREE BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, December 8, 2015

MINUTES

1. **Present:** Peters, Schubert, Aniol, Coy arrived at 4:13 pm.
Absent: Hansen
2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Motion by Peters, 2nd by Schubert to approve the May 19, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by those present.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** – Motion by Peters, 2nd by Schubert to approve the agenda with the additional of a discussion regarding Edison Street and Lions Park as item 9.F. Motion carried by those present.
4. **PUBLIC HEARING** - None
5. **PRE-ARRANGED CITIZENS PARTICIPATION** (Limited to 5 minutes) - None
6. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**
 - A. Chair - None
 - B. Tree Board Members – Schubert stated he inspected the trees in Westridge
 - C. Community Development Office or Department of Public Services – Aniol reviewed her report dated December 8, 2015.
7. **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD** (Limited to 3 minutes) - None
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. None
9. **NEW BUSINESS** – Coy arrived at 4:13 pm.
 - A. Tree Maintenance (pruning and removal) – Aniol reviewed the City Manager’s report dated, December 4, 2015. Coy stated the trimming, in his opinion, was not enough. Peters conducted his own inspection and shared photos with the Board. He stated there is a difference between a street tree and a lawn tree, and that street trees need to be trimmed up higher than a lawn tree. He also said that more education of the public needs to be done. Coy questioned the tree trimming guidelines. Peters stated the minimum limb height is 5-7’ from grade, and that the Tree Board thoroughly researched this before setting the tree trimming height. Aniol was directed to pull out the guidelines and distribute them to City Council.

Coy asked whether or not the Board has a plan for trimming? He stated the board needs to go back and trim trees planted in the last 5 years. He suggested setting up quadrants for annual trimming.

Peters said that small and large trees need to be address in each quadrant. Coy preferred to concentrate on small trees in each quadrant. Aniol was directed to follow-up with our Arborist and report back to the Board at its next meeting.
 - B. DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program – Aniol reported that the Tree Board’s grant application was approved for \$4,000 with a \$4,000 match required to

replace dead, diseased and dying trees in Westridge, Huron Farms, and Dexter Crossing subdivisions and to plant new trees in Mill Creek Park, by October 31, 2016. Aniol then reviewed the draft Street Tree Planting Bid document. Peters suggested a Red Sunset Maple be added to the price list. Peters and Coy discussed the need for language to state definitively that the contract must allow the Board to be able to tag the trees it wants plant. Aniol will revise the bid document and get it posted by the end of the week, so that the bids are back in time to be review by the Board at its meeting in January.

- C. 2016 Street Tree Resident-Cost Share Program – Aniol reviewed the order form and received feedback from the Board members present. Consensus of the Board was to hold off determining the tree species to be offered for next year’s planting until after the bids are received.
- D. Election of Officers. Postponed to next meeting.
- E. Review Bylaws. Aniol reviewed the bylaws with the Board and proposed two (2) minor edits on the last page – replace the word “tabling” with the word “postpone” under item 4 of public hearing process and replace the words “in July” with the words “of the year, or as needed” in Article XI, Section II. Coy suggested that second sentence of the first paragraph in Article IV be amended to add that all members of the Tree Board must be city residents and that one of the other four member of the board is a liaison from the Park and Recreation Commission.

Motion by Schubert, seconded by Peters to amend the bylaws as discussed; motion carried.

- F. Edison Street/Lions Park – Aniol reviewed request from Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager, on behalf of the resident adjacent to the proposed playground at Lions Park, to plant an evergreen screen between her property and the proposed playground. Coy stated the expenditure should not come out of the Tree Board Budget. Peters concurred and suggested that the Parks Commission make a formal request. Coy expressed concern about spruce wilt. Peters stated the property in owned by the schools, not the City and suggested a landscape architect be consulted for tree species recommendations. Consensus of the Board was to hold off making a decision to allow the Parks Commission time to determine if it wants to make a formal request for funding from the Tree Board.

10. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The board discussed the items for next month.

11. CITIZENS WIHSING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (Limited to 3 minutes) None

12. ADJOURNMENT Motion by Peters, second by Coy. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Michelle Aniol
Community Development Manager

Approved for filing: January 19, 2016