

Tree Advisory and Education Board Minutes

June 10, 2020

Attendees: Lara Roketenetz, Laura Balliett, Linda Grandstaff, Marc Dann, Matt Krems, Sam Bonvissuto, Tom Bullock

This meeting was held via Go-to-Meeting, called to order at 6 p.m.

The minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved, after a motion by Lara and second by Marc. The followup email sent by David Sangree on the prior tree commission's recommendations will be included as an attachment.

The discussion of the Private Property Planting campaign covered streets selected for targeted communications. Marc selected Phelps Ave. to be included. Changes to the draft letter will be incorporated and redistributed to the board and to Melissa Garrett for city review. The requests for trees will be directed to the Streets and Forestry department email with the expectation that if the responses exceed the target of 50 trees, the department will retain the additional target requests for future plantings. Sam will share the maintenance pamphlet for inclusion. The board is planning an August mail drop to support a fall planting schedule.

Sam indicated that there is a spending freeze for the City due to the coronavirus shutdown and economic impacts. However, 226 trees were planted in the spring, and an additional 174 are planned for fall planting, for a total of 400. Sam will review whether the 50 private property plantings will be in addition to the 400. He noted that the planned 32 tree removals were completed and have generated substantial negative community feedback. There was discussion of the production of educational outreach, perhaps via video on the Lakewood website, to explain the rationale for removals and the net planting schedule. A discussion of potential grant requests also took place. Input into the Forestry budget by the board needs to occur by September 30.

A discussion of the prior commission's recommendations took place. The discussion also covered the Forest City Working Group's Moses Cleveland trees, long lived trees. There are still 2 in Lakewood on Overlook and Athens and wood from one that was taken down is being stored for display at the facility replacing the Skate House. The board agreed that the development of outreach through a "tree beauty contest" identifying and recognizing big, beautiful and unusual trees in Lakewood.

On a separate recommendation, additional research on other cities programs for large tree removal oversight will be conducted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.