

February 12, 2020

Chairman Thomas DeRoss called the meeting of the Tipp City Tree Board to order on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at 5:13 p.m. Other Board Members in attendance included Karen Jackson and Adam Blake. Also in attendance were Tipp City Public Works Superintendent Tony Hunt, Tipp City Arborist Todd Samples, Secretary Dawn Gross, and Board Secretary Erin Mixon.

Press in attendance: None.

Citizens present: Mike Jackson.

Swearing in of Member Adam Blake. Ms. Gross administered the oath of office to Mr. Blake. His term will expire December 2022.

Election of Chairman

Ms. Jackson **moved to elect Tom DeRoss as Chairman of the Tree Advisory Board**, seconded by Mr. Blake. Mr. DeRoss accepted the nomination. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Election of Vice Chairman

Mr. Blake **moved to elect Karen Jackson as Vice Chairman of the Tree Advisory Board**, seconded by Mr. DeRoss. Ms. Jackson accepted the nomination. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes

Ms. Jackson **moved to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes as presented**, seconded by Mr. Blake. **Minutes were unanimously approved.**

New Business

Tree Planting/Removal Requests

- 106 S. First – Removal of Curb Lawn Tree by the City
 - Request states, "destroying concrete walk, too big". Mr. Blake **moved to deny the request for removal**, seconded by Ms. Jackson. **Motion passed unanimously.**
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Ms. Jackson noted that the 100 block of S. First has only four trees, including the large tree at 106. She stated that Westedge is the current priority, but she would like a planting plan made all of First through Fourth streets.

Mr. Blake stated that during the comprehensive inventory, it would be beneficial to inventory those spaces and then focus on planting a target area each year based on the greatest need.

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2020 Annual Tree Board Plan

Mr. DeRoss asked about the tree inventory included in the plan.

Ms. Jackson discussed the tree ^{lottery} ~~inventory~~ idea coming from a Tree Academy class member in 2019, who implemented one in her area.

Mr. Hunt stated that the City does not plant the tree. He would like to follow the example of the City working with a tree nursery to provide a certificate for the tree, and to do a drawing around the time of the Mum Festival.

Mr. Blake suggested that to fund the tree lottery, the tree board should promote as free advertising for the tree provider.

Mr. Hunt stated that he would prefer to give away multiple trees, using more than one nursery.

Mr. DeRoss and Mr. Blake discussed the organization of a lottery and Mr. Blake stated that he would work with staff to implement a plan, as it falls under marketing.

Mr. DeRoss asked to change the plan to state, "Create a marketing plan for a tree lottery program for Tipp city residents".

Ms. Mixon shared that after talking to the City Manager that the line item about changing the ordinance should reflect that Council votes to change an ordinance.

The Board decided to discuss it further at the next meeting and change the plan to state, "Review the tree ordinance for possible changes". The Board also decided to remove the third line item from this year's plan.

Mr. Blake **moved to approve the annual plan for 2020 with changes**, seconded by Ms. Jackson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Urban Forestry Management Plan Update

Ms. Jackson presented the updated plan to the board and staff, asking how staff would like the priority list arranged on page 11.

Mr. Hunt stated that the list looked good, but maybe planting be moved up on the priority.

Mr. DeRoss stated that the list is comprehensive and that just removing the words "lowest priority" from the plan will ensure that all items are a high priority.

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Mr. Hunt shared with the board that the City Manager requested everything that states "budget" be removed from the action list and for it to state "Work with the City administration on funding action plan" instead.

Grant Possibilities

Ms. Jackson stated that Heather Bailey, Executive Director of the Tipp City Foundation, invited several of the City Board's members to a coffee in March to discuss grant money. She said that the focus of this year for the Foundation is the benefits of trees. There are specific funds within the Tipp City Foundation that are tree specific.

Mr. DeRoss suggested that the Tree Board members who attend this coffee event share the devastation on the urban forest by Emerald Ash Borer. He also stated that citizens in attendance might want to help by sponsoring a planting. He then asked Mr. Hunt to look into the cost and the possibility of planting sponsorships.

Ms. Jackson then shared that there are still no grant opportunities from ODNR.

Tree Inventory Implementation

Mr. DeRoss discussed the tree inventory beginning in Westedge and the focus of accomplishing the inventory goes to the next area by Mr. Blake of getting volunteers and students.

Volunteer Recruitment, Training, and Supervision

Mr. Blake explained that Montgomery County pays a fee and supervises VISTA volunteers to work summers and asked if Tipp City had ever used the service.

Mr. Hunt said that usually larger cities with entire GIS departments use that resource.

Mr. Blake also suggested letting local Boy Scout troops know because it would be a fantastic Eagle Scout project, but that would also need a staff supervisor and he wants Mr. Hunt's input on availability to do so.

Mr. DeRoss asked Mr. Blake to look into the summer intern program of VISTA for more information.

Other Business

Tree Removal and Planting Update

Mr. Samples stated that we are up to date on removals and removed the tree the board asked him to look at during the December meeting.

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Mr. Hunt confirmed to Ms. Jackson that the sprouting stump on Hyatt Street was removed during the last tree stump grinding.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. DeRoss shared an email from the resident at 703 Wilson Court, stating that the Burr Oak tree on their property is too big and they would like to donate it to a City park.

Mr. Hunt stated that his only concern was the part of the email that said, "I did ask that question of someone last year at the government offices, and they said no".

Mr. DeRoss explained that there had been no Tree Board denial for the donation and asked Mr. Hunt to check with the City Manager.

Mr. Hunt replied that if the tree donation were permitted, he would contact Deeter's Nursery directly to arrange the transfer of the tree.

Citizen Comments -Items Not On the Agenda

Mr. Jackson stated he was happy to be there.

Mr. DeRoss congratulated Mr. Jackson on his appointment to City Council.

Comments of Tree Advisory Members

Ms. Jackson confirmed with Ms. Mixon that the dates for the Tree Academy Senior class are February 20 and 27 and the types of snacks requested.

Mr. Blake asked about other food donations needed and Ms. Mixon stated she would email him with the requests.

Adjournment

Chairman DeRoss asked for further discussion or comments. There being none, **Ms. Jackson moved for adjournment**, seconded by Mr. Blake. **Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

APPROVED: 

Thomas DeRoss, Board Chairman

ATTEST: 

Erin Mixon, Board Secretary