

# **PERRYSBURG STREET TREE COMMISSION MEETING**

## **December 9, 2019**

Vice Chairman Robert Zak called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Members present: Jim Hagen, Christine Ardley, Rob Ross, Bob Zak, Greg Kuhr, Mark Easterling and Phil Walton.

Not present: Scott Kirby.

Honorary Member: Don Lieder.

Visitors: Judy Hagen, Program Coordinator for Keep Perrysburg Beautiful, Linda Deichert, city resident and Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator.

We reviewed minutes from the November 4th meeting. Christine Ardley made a motion to approve the minute as is and Jim Hagen second it. All in favor (7-0).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **INTRODUCE PHILIP WALTON, STREET TREE COMMISSION MEMBER**

Philip Walton was introduced as the newest Commission member finishing the unexpired term for Tony Kucic ending December 31, 2020. At that time, he will be eligible to be reappointed for a full three-year term.

#### **LINDA DEICHERT – 904 SHEARWOOD DRIVE**

Linda Deichert said she wanted to give the Commission an update that both trees have been removed. Planting will take place in the Spring of 2020. She wants the Commission to know that she does not want replacement trees that have fruit, berries or a lot of work. She likes Dogwoods and if this type of tree fits our standards she is good with it.

Jim Hagen said we could put together a list of the trees that we suggest and send to her. The approved street tree list is on the city's website. Also told her about our arboretum that she could visit and take a look at what we have.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **TREE SURVEY UPDATE**

Rob Ross said the Purchase Order will be created once the Law Director finishes reviewing the contract and gets the proper signatures.

#### **FALL PLANTING UPDATE**

Greg Kuhr said we started planting last week. 118 trees (developer and resident requests) to be planted by North Branch.

## **WINTER PRUNING UPDATE**

In October and November, 50 trees were pruned on South Ridge. 58 trees were pruned in Horseshoe Bend before we started leaf pick up. There were 11 small removals and 11 other minor prunings completed. Minimal damage from storms – in November only 3 Bradford Pears and in October 4 from wind damage. We are wrapping up leaf collection now and then will go back to pruning.

## **VOLCANO MULCH REMEDIATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

Judy Hagen handed out a timeline where we are at. She highlighted from the beginning to where we are now and what needs to be done.

Bridgette Kabat spoke to the Commission and said that she, Rob Ross and Brody Walters have met and talked about what do we do regarding street trees. There are 15,000 street trees now and we are adding another 118.

Jim Hagen says he would like to see us hire an Arborist and crew to solely work on trees. Everyone keeps saying we need to take care of what we have before we add more. Stephanie Miller, ODNR Urban Forester, agrees. If we put on personal property, they won't maintain as well.

Mark Easterling said if a homeowner wants a street tree, they need to attend a seminar put on by the city to learn how to take care of the tree. It would cut back on the tree plantings but the resident wants the tree and will care for it.

Jim Hagen said maybe an official letter from the City Law Director explaining the problem with going into more detail and possibly increasing the assessment.

Phil Walton is shocked to hear how many trees are affected with volcano mulch.

Judy Hagen suggests the landscapers need to be licensed and then fined per tree. Shannon Solt, Public Information Officer for the City can get the word out in social media also. The City can also work with the Urban Forestry group as well as our storm water management office.

Bob Zak would like to possibly have a CD cut and made available at the library. He says that putting a tree on personal property could be a problem because his city right-of-way comes way up into his yard and there would be no room for a tree. He agrees that we have a problem with keeping up with the trees as there are a lot of benefits and consequences. He believes we need to start at the elementary school level to educate.

Christine Ardley likes starting at the school level and also likes the CD idea at the library.

Bridgette Kabat will talk with the Law Director further on this subject. In the code it does state to hold landscapers accountable. They will work with Council to possibly amend the ordinances and make whoever performed the volcano activity remediate the situation.

### **TREE CITY USA RECERTIFICATION AND GROWTH AWARD**

We are waiting to talk to Stephanie Miller on a few questions we have with the new format. Once we get answers, we can finish the process and submit the applications.

### **STREET TREE COMMISSION REPORT**

Scott Kirby will write up this report and just as soon as we can get answers for the Tree City USA application we will supply Scott with the information he needs for his report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Judy Hagen asked for input on topics she listed and which ones we want her to use. If we are going to hold any meetings/classes at the library we need to get this scheduled in January. Their calendar fills up quickly. Library is only taking reservations from June to December 2020. First half of the year is already filled up.

Bob Zak read his response back from Stephanie Miller, Urban Forester on the satellite dish question we posed to her. All Commission members received an email copy from Stephanie as well.

### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m. The date for the next meeting is **MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

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Debbie Ivan, Recording Secretary

*File: Street Tree Minutes*  
*Copy: Street Tree Commission Members*  
*City Council Members*  
*Mayor*

*City Administrator*  
*Mayor's Secretary*  
*Finance Director*  
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