



Tree Commission – May 8, 2023
City Hall, Galesburg, IL

Meeting Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ann Pennington

Attendance:

Members Present:

Jane Easterly, Ann Pennington, Dan Thompson, Bill Sime, Pat Trant,

City of Galesburg:

Elizabeth Varner, Director of Parks and Recreation

Absent:

City Council Liason

Don Miles, Superintendent of Parks

Guest: None

Minutes:

Minutes of the April 2023 meeting were approved with motions from Pat Trant and Dan Thompson. Commissioners inquired on the City Council member the liaison for the Tree Commission would be. Three members mentioned Dwight White would be good. Elizabeth Varner reminded them that the Mayor will appoint.

Forestry Report:

Elizabeth Varner provided copies of the Forestry report for commissioners to review. Pat Trant raised a question on the Loads of brush dumped having such a big increase. Elizabeth explained that Forestry stated the loads of brush dumped are from citizens on the weekend. The loads hauled are the loads forestry dumps.

Old Business:

Bill Sime did the honors of opening the tree tag package to share with the Tree Commission. Everyone thanked Bill and Dan Thompson for all they did to see the tree tags ordered. There are 102 tags that are 2" round for the total number of individual trees. Bill mentioned the map needs to be updated to match the tags.

Elizabeth explained that Kelli Bennewitz has been busy with the past/current City Council and has not been able to finalize the Champion Tree nomination online.

New Business:

A tree tag plan was discussed by the Commissioners. Elizabeth will have Don meet with Forestry to discuss. Pat suggested that the correct tree needs to correspond with the correct tag. He also suggested a consistent height. Elizabeth will email the place the tags were ordered to get their suggestion. Ann mentioned that consideration should be given to people with disabilities and young children. Pat would like the tree tags to be on



the side facing the sidewalk, so not all are on the same side of a tree. Dan wants all the tags on the same side of the tree for all the trees. It was decided to have Don access this with Forestry and report back in June. Ann Pennington suggested an on-site stroll to look at the tree. Bill also mentioned young trees cannot use nails, so zip ties might be appropriate. Pat is also concerned with the Forestry workload. The map needs to be sequenced correctly, and the map in Standish Park needs updated and replaced. It was suggested by Ann that the next meeting be in the park. The current inventory map needs updated with all the new trees as well. This includes Project 350 tree plantings. Elizabeth will check about updating the map.

Everyone thought the Arbor Day tree planting at Steele School was fantastic. They loved the Principal and having all the students present. Commissioners felt it was the best Arbor Day planting they have seen. Elizabeth reported that Steele School was taking on the responsibility of watering the tree. Commissioners asked about the summer plans for watering. Elizabeth will check on this. It might be possible to be on the rotation with Project 350 for watering the tree at Steele, or perhaps the Custodian will be able to do this. It was mentioned they were hoping Don would have a summer truck and staff to help water trees, due to the trouble with Tom having a truck. Elizabeth expressed manpower is difficult but will check. Everyone was happy to see Steve Davis present to take a picture, but it was not covered by any news media, which was disheartening. Elizabeth will see what can be done regarding media coverage.

Earth Day is on April 22, 2023 and Elizabeth reported the morning tree plantings went great, along with one tree planted at Kiwanis Park, with youth participation. There were 61 volunteers who showed up in the afternoon at Kiwanis Park, led by United Way and the Kiwanis Club, to clean up the park so it was a successful day overall.

Additional Comments: None

Citizen Comments: None

Meeting Adjourned: 4:39 p.m. with motions from Dan Thompson and Bill Sime

Next Meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023
(Jane Easterly will not be able to attend. Meeting may move to Standish Park.)

Elizabeth Varner

Director of Parks & Recreation, Elizabeth Varner