



Tree Commission – June 5, 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:

Ann Pennington, Bill Sime, Pat Trant,

City of Galesburg:

Elizabeth Varner, Director of Parks and Recreation

Absent:

Jane Easterly (Informed last meeting), Dan Thompson

City Council Liason

Don Miles, Superintendent of Parks

Guest: Deborah Ferren

Minutes:

Minutes of the May 2023 meeting were approved with motions from Pat Trant and Bill Sime.

Forestry Report:

Copies of the Forestry report were distributed for commissioners to review. A new line was added for trees planted by volunteers. Project 350 is ahead of the tree planting goal. There should be a total of 205 trees planted, with 93 total planted this spring. Two were lost due to lack of rain. Tom replaced one at Lincoln Park recently. The five trees removed did not include Emerald Ash Borer trees. There are still some EAB trees remaining to be removed.

The guest, Ms. Deborah Ferren, asked if she could discuss Emerald Ash Borer trees. Don stated that Forestry would take out the 59 Imperial Drive tree. She has two EAB trees and wants limbs removed. Ms. Ferren was also a guest a couple of years ago regarding a tree stump that has not been removed. She mentioned that public safety was contacted regarding a limb that fell and almost hit a car and would like it trimmed or taken out. Don will check the tree and call her about the status of the trees. (335-9601-Ms. Ferren) She also inquired as to if she could hire someone to take the tree down. It was explained that she must get the City of Galesburg permission since it is on city property.

Old Business:

City Clerk, Ms. Kelli Benniwitz, is working on the Tree Champion Nomination form.

The tree planted on Arbor Day at Steele School looks good. District #205 has a water bag on it to help the tree out.



There was discussion on what the height should be for the tree tags to be installed at Standish Park. Bill suggested that tags should face the closest path. Pat thinks all tags should face the same way and this could be the same as the path. He read a comment from Dan Thompson in his absence. Dan would like the tree tags to be placed on the same side of each tree to be easy to find on all trees. The consensus was to place the tags on the side closest to the path. Commissioners agree to take a visual look at the trees in Standish Park at the July meeting to decide the final height, weather permitting. The standard diameter is 4 ½ feet on the tree.

Pat also mentioned that the small oak trees moved to Costa are gone, possibly mowed over. Don suggested waiting until fall. He mentioned that Parks and Forestry keep taking limbs off trees.

Bill asked about the plan to remove old tags. Don said that is the plan.

Mr. Jim Cueno sent an update of the tree list. Don will provide a new list so Jim can update it.

Don mentioned that the city is watering trees with part time assistance. Pat mentioned that a Service Berry at O.N. Custer Park does not look good. The tree at the train museum was moved by Tom Simkins to O.N. Custer Park along the service road. There is a Bald Cypress by the bridge in the gully at the overpass, which Don will check. This was planted on Earth Day, April 22, 2023.

Ann Pennington reminded everyone of the plan to meet at Standish Park.

New Business:

None

Additional Comments: None

Additional Citizen Comments: None

Meeting Adjourned: 4:42 p.m. with motions from Bill Sime and Pat Trant

Next Meeting: Monday, July 10th, 2023

Elizabeth Varner

Director of Parks & Recreation, Elizabeth Varner