



Tree Commission – December 11, 2023
City Hall, Galesburg, IL

Meeting Called to Order: Meeting was called to order by Ann Pennington.

Attendance: **Members Present:** Jane Easterly, Ann Pennington, Bill Sime, Dan Thompson, Pat Trant
City of Galesburg: Elizabeth Varner, Director of Parks and Recreation
Don Miles -Superintendent of Parks , Ann Pennington

Minutes:
The minutes of the November 2023 meeting were approved, with changes, followed by motions from Pat Trant and Bill Sime. The changes include replacing St. Mary's with Prairie and Tompkins in the Forestry report, and Jane Easterly provided information on the namesake of Standish Park instead of Bill Sime in the New Business, 2nd Paragraph.

Forestry Report:
A Forestry report was provided for November 2023. Don Miles, Superintendent of Parks, provided an overview. A line has been added to show Project 350 trees for future reports.

Old Business:
Tom Simkins attended to provide an end of the year report for Project 350. There were 112 trees planted in 2022, and 149 in 2023 for a grand total of 261 tree planted with Project 350 money and volunteers. Don Miles will provide Tom with a tablet so he can update the tree total this winter. A report was provided that also showed new species. There were 70 different species in Project 350 only. Tom thanked the Parks Division for all of their assistance. There should be around a \$17,000.00 balance going in to 2024. Trees averaged around \$147 so that should enable another 117 trees to be planted so this could actually be Project "378" instead of "350". There are about 30 trees still yet to be designated with the annual allotment.

New Business:
Jane Easterly inquired about the number of trees down at Lake Storey Park, and no new trees being planted as she walked along the lake. She is concerned for the birds. There was a dead Ash tree out. Don Miles explained that two Oak trees were planted last fall. Don Miles will work on getting new trees planted. The Tree Commission expressed concern regarding the Disc Golf being proposed at Lake Storey. They would like to see the proposal before any action is taken. Elizabeth Varner will see about getting the proposal.

The gazebo at Standish Park was mentioned, with Elizabeth Varner stated there are plans for something coming.



Pat Trant asked if the snow fence could be removed on the lot on East Main street where the proposed park is for aesthetic purposes. It was suggested that a barrier may be needed, as the neighbor drives around it. Tom Simkins stated a chain fence may be possible.

Dan Thompson brought a Bonsai Tree and explained the process. It is a pine that can be left outdoors all winter. (Birds Nest Pine) He showed the wire wrapped around the branches to create the art form. Dan belongs to three Bonsai Clubs in Bettendorf, Springfield and the University of Illinois. It was mentioned that he could be a guest at the Galesburg Library and City of Galesburg Parks and Recreation.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m. with motions from Bill Sime and Dan Thompson.

*** It was then discussed and approved not to have a meeting in January 2024.**

Next Meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024

Elizabeth Varner

Director of Parks & Recreation, Elizabeth Varner