

# CHARLESTON TREE COMMISSION MINUTES---

## JANUARY 29, 2014



LACEBARK ELM

The Charleston Tree Commission meeting of January 29, 2014 was called to order by Chairman Andy Methven at 6:41 PM in the City Council chambers at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois. [Note: regular meeting room was unavailable]

Members present were Andy Methven, Vince Gutowski, Stan Adkins, Cynthia Nichols, Gordon Tucker, and Wesley Whiteside. Also present was Curt Devore, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities Maintenance for the City of Charleston.

The minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting were approved as printed on a motion by Cynthia Nichols as seconded by Vince Gutowski. Motion passed 6-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Problem trees.** Curt Devore reported very minimal damage to city trees due to winter conditions.
  
- b. **Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan.** Members of the Tree Board discussed several paragraphs in the EAB document and concluded that members wishing to change items within the document send their revisions to Chairman Methven for further discussion at the next meeting. Some information in the EAB Plan cannot be included until the latest inventory of ash trees on public land is completed. Cost factors involving tree removal, stump grinding, and replanting will be compiled in the next couple of months. Upon completion of the EAB Preparedness Plan it may be recommended to the City Council for adoption. Curt Devore indicated that City Manager, Scott Smith has reviewed the document in its present form.

Chairman Methven asked if the document, "Protecting Trees During Construction" had gone to the City Council for adoption. It was determined after discussion that Chairman Methven would prepare a cover letter to Scott Smith, City Manager indicating that the Tree Board had approved the document and would recommend it be adopted as city policy.

- c. **Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance.** Information concerning this ordinance will be discussed at the February meeting. Adkins will e-mail information to Tree Board members prior to February meeting.
- d. **Tree City USA update.** Curt Devore completed the application and filed with the State of Illinois, Urban Forestry.
- e. **Tree Campus USA update.** Andy Methven has completed and filed the application. Methven reported that he received notification that it had been received.
- f. **TCU Conferences**---March 26 and April 1, 2014. The Tree City USA presentations for our area will be March 26<sup>th</sup> at the IDNR building in Springfield, Illinois. Methven asked if Tree Board members might attend.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Revised Tree Commission meetings for 2014.** Adkins reported that the newly formed Tree Commission had adopted the last Wednesday of each month for a meeting. The published dates for 2014 would indicate the Tree Board meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month which is incorrect. Two (2) dates would need to be changed from the original posting.
- b. **Lake Island Tract.** A discussion ensued concerning architectural plans for the Lake Island Tract especially the removal of invasive plants and suggested trails on the north side of the island. Curt Devore reported that the architects rendering is only conceptual and should not be taken as a final plan. Devore indicated that grants will be applied for to fund removal of invasive plants from the hillsides. Devore volunteered to bring the architectural plans to the February meeting.
- c. **Tree Boards and Commission Roundtable---February 4, 2014.** An invitation was received for members of our Tree Board to attend this meeting which will be held at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois.
- d. **2013 Forest Health Highlights.** Methven provided copies of this very useful document prepared by Dr. Fredric Miller, IDNR Forest Health Specialist, The Morton

Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois. The “highlights” provide our Tree Board with a better understanding of the decline of many of our tree species.

- e. **Tree Owner’s Manual.** Chairman Methven made a copy and placed on the first floor of City Hall for public use. Due to the large number of pages, copies were not prepared for members of the Tree Board. It is available on line.
  
- f. **Jennifer Behnken—Urban and Community Forester, SIU-C.** Agenda and minutes of our meetings will be e-mailed to Jennifer with an invitation to attend any of the Tree Board meetings. Jennifer had sent out the web addresses of the Owner’s Manual and the Forest Highlights to Tree Board members. During this discussion, Methven mentioned that the idea of a bike path had been discussed linking Eastern Illinois University campus with Garfield Avenue, McKinley Street, Lakeview Park and on to the Island Tract as a recreational feature.
  
- g. **Archway.** Gutowski asked members to think of a street that might be utilized to form a natural foliage canopy or archway over a street.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM on a motion by Gordon Tucker seconded by Vince Gutowski. Motion passed 6-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the upstairs conference room at 520 Jackson Avenue.

Submitted by: Stan Adkins, Secretary