

# CHARLESTON TREE COMMISSION MINUTES ----

## FEBRUARY 26, 2014



Downy Serviceberry

The Charleston Tree Commission meeting of February 26, 2014 was called to order by Chairman Andy Methven at 6:37 PM in the upstairs conference room at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.

Members present were Andy Methven, Stan Adkins, Wesley Whiteside, Vince Gutowski, and Bob Wagoner. Also present was Curt Devore, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities Maintenance for the City of Charleston. Stephanie Markham was a visitor representing the Eastern Illinois University newspaper.

The minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting were approved as amended on a motion by Bob Wagoner and seconded by Vince Gutowski. Motion was approved 5-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Problem trees.** Curt Devore reported that the large ash tree on Division Street, north of the Dairy Queen, will be removed. It was previously inspected by Tree Board members and observed that branches were overhanging the street and much of the canopy was dead. Curt will work with Ameren on this project of removal to save the city money. Devore also stated that there is a tree at 4<sup>th</sup> and Madison Avenue that he would like Tree Board members to observe for potential removal.
  
- b. **Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan.** Adkins discussed changes he had made based on the discussion about this plan from the January meeting. Andy Methven submitted several editorial changes that will be incorporated into the plan and further discussed at the March meeting.

- c. **Tree Preservation and Replacement Ordinance.** After discussion of the plan modeled after a similar ordinance for Columbus, Georgia, Adkins suggested Tree Board members review the document to see if any parts of it can be applied to Charleston. Adkins also suggested that the Board might review EIU's tree management plan to see if ideas on tree replacement could be adopted for the City of Charleston. He also asked if the Board might consider adopting a species of tree for an official tree of the city.
  
- d. **Tree City USA update.** The plan has been reviewed by Renee Hildebrandt, Director of Urban Forestry for Illinois and sent on to the National Arbor Day Foundation. Charleston, Illinois continues to be on the list of cities recognized as a Tree City USA.
- e. **Tree Campus USA update.** The application has been approved by the National Arbor Day Foundation and Eastern Illinois University continues to be recognized as a Tree Campus USA.
  
- f. **TCU Conferences---March 26, 2014 and April 1, 2014.** The March 26<sup>th</sup> date is in Springfield, Illinois at the DNR office on the State Fairgrounds. Andy asked board members to let him know if they would like to attend.
  
- g. **Lake Island Tract.** Curt Devore provided the detailed plan as submitted by architects. He indicated that it is only a preliminary plan with changes forthcoming. Bob Wagoner asked if Charleston qualifies for a federal grant to provide money for restoration of the lake island tract. Devore mentioned that the Lumpkin grant, if applied for, requires a detailed plan and a budget that would include 50% of the costs to be borne by the city.
  
- h. **Arbor Day.** This year the official Arbor Day for Illinois is Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Methven requested that board members bring their ideas on celebrating Arbor Day to the March meeting. Ideas that surfaced : planting trees at the NECO fields with girls softball players helping, finish planting trees at the Carnegie Library, planting trees at VFW Park with Veterans helping, and planting trees at Charleston schools. In addition an idea was suggested concerning planting a row of trees on one of Charleston's city streets such as 6<sup>th</sup> street.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Revised Tree Commission meetings for 2014.** Discussion centered about the fact that Tree Board meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month not the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Only 2 months would be impacted by this difference.

- b. **Ash Tree Tagging.** Chairman Methven acquainted board members with an Arbor Day project involving volunteers from the community identifying and tagging ash trees. This program would increase awareness of ash trees on public property. Volunteers might include, scouting groups, EIU students, and/or Charleston K-12 students.
  
- c. **Big Tree Register.** Bob Wagoner had pointed out that the state does not have a Black Oak State Champion. He will be measuring a tree growing on the Charleston Country Club golf course and will submit these measurements to State Forestry as a potential state champion tree. He also mentioned the possibility of a basswood tree in Fox Ridge State Park as a State Champion. Adkins provided Tree Board members with a listing of native trees that do not have a state champion identified.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM on a motion by Bob Wagoner as seconded by Vince Gutowski. Motion passed 5-0.

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

Submitted by: Stan Adkins, Secretary