

CHARLESTON TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

MAY 28, 2014



KATSURA TREE IN AUTUMN

The Charleston Tree Commission meeting of May 28, 2014 was called to order by Chairman Andy Methven at 6:36 PM in the upstairs conference room at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.

Members present were Andy Methven, Stan Adkins, Gary Cole, and Wesley Whiteside. Also present was Curt Devore, Superintendent of Charleston Parks and Facilities Maintenance. The meeting proceeded without a quorum present.

The minutes for the April 16, 2014 meeting will be voted on at the June 25th meeting.

Chairman Methven opened a box of materials containing items honoring EIU's continuation in the Tree Campus USA program. It was suggested that the Tree Campus USA flag included in the materials might be flown at the EIU Welcome Center. Methven also mentioned that he thought the plaque included with materials might be displayed in Booth Library.

OLD BUSINESS

Problem trees. Gary Cole reported on 2 Silver Maple trees that need to be removed as hazard trees. A discussion followed on the slow growth of species such as magnolias and other species affected by winter kill.

Arbor Day recap. Curt Devore reported that 8-9 new trees had been planted this spring so far. These included some Katsura trees at Sister City Park. Curt also reported that the Tree Board had received 6 of the purple “Barney” traps for EAB detection. Using a bucket lift, the city will start putting these up around the city. Curt asked for suggestions as to sites for traps. The following suggestions came from that discussion: east side of Monroe Street, the camp ground at Fox Ridge State Park, Woodlawn Drive, Edgar Drive and the Charleston square.

Tree Board members donated and helped plant two Red Horse Chestnut trees on the campus of Carl Sandburg Elementary School. Mrs. Lou Conwell’s classes provided lots of energetic digging and backfilling. The trees were planted in a row next to the two Forest Pansy Red Buds on the northeast corner of the campus. The Forest Pansy Red Buds were donated last Arbor Day, 2013 and are healthy.

EAB update. Andy Methven e-mailed the most recent national map highlighting EAB outbreaks in the various states. Stan Adkins reported that he had been asked by citizen, Ron Johnson to examine an ash tree in his yard in Heritage Woods area for EAB infection. While there were borer exit holes, the holes were large and round. Adkins provided the Johnson’s with an EAB Homeowner’s brochure. The two ash trees at the Johnson residence were quite healthy. Two men pouring concrete had noticed the exit holes and called it to the attention of the Johnson’s. That would indicate word is getting around about the EAB problem.

NEW BUSINESS

- Plans for remainder of 2014. The vinca flowers are ready to be planted at the two plots set aside for the Tree Board; Advantage Auto Parts and Lawyer-Richie Florists. A work time will be scheduled in the next few days.
- It was also mentioned that future work days might be scheduled for removal of honey suckle and other invasives at the Lake Island tract.
- Devore reported that the Paper bark Maples at the Library had been watered.
- Methven reminded members that the revised schedule of meetings for 2014 will include June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24, October, 29, and November 26.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM. The next meeting of the Charleston Tree Commission will be Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 6:30 PM at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.

Submitted by: Stan Adkins, Secretary