

# **CHARLESTON TREE COMMISSION---MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 23, 2019**



## **Male Ginkgo**

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Adkins, acting as facilitator for the Tree Board. The meeting started at 8:03 AM in the upstairs conference room at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois

Members present were Cynthia Nichols, Larry Shobe, Stan Adkins, and Marissa Grant. Also present was CJ Applegate, Superintendent for Parks and Facilities Maintenance.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Fall tree Planting Project—Red Bud Replacement.** Adkins Reported on the very successful planting of 3 Forest Pansy Red Bud trees on 7<sup>th</sup> Street adjacent to the playground at Jefferson Elementary School. Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Beabout's 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes planted the trees following tree planting instructions as well as information about the Charleston Tree Board and Tree City USA. The planting took place at 9:00 AM on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The students also mulched the trees. Applegate's staff then watered trees and will stake them soon.

Adkins indicated that CJ Applegate's staff will be in charge of planting replacement Red Buds in the Coolidge Triangle and Adkins will check with a high school teacher to see if high school students might help plant replacement Red Buds on their campus.

**EAB Infection and Tree Removal.** Adkins and Applegate reviewed the EAB infected trees on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets as well as 4 ash trees located at Credit Union 1, which is located on the south side of Lincoln Avenue. Applegate and Adkins were asked by citizens to look at 2

different ash trees on residents property. Both trees showed some early signs of borer infection. The City will decide when and how infected trees will be removed.

Larry Shobe observed that the cluster of Bald Cypress trees on EIU's campus show signs of some type of borer activity and asked for Tree Board members to take a look at them. He was concerned that Bald Cypress might also be attacked by Emerald AshBorer.

**Tree Board Member Recommendations..** Discussion followed a presentation by Adkins of 2 different forms to be used for prospective Tree Commission members. One form was much more brief. City Clerk Deb Muller is assisting the Board in deciding which would be the correct form to use. Cynthia Nichols volunteered to work with Muller to try to expedite determining which form could be used prior to the November meeting.

Cynthia Nichols developed questions/statements for possible new members that will be attached to the final application. Those will be attached to the bottom of the minutes.

**Hazard Trees.** Referring back to the August meeting and the list of dead trees or dead limbs that pose a hazard, discussion centered about how to best work with the public in insuring the safety for people and vehicles. Shobe noted the large number of dead trees that have been left standing around the city, mainly on private property

Adkins read from a portion of the City Code that references "the duties of property owners" to protect the public right of way. Section 2-7-1 through 2-7-4. [Recently updated to new numbers.] He suggested members may go the City web site and using the word "trees" find several references to the Tree Board and Code statements concerning trees.

Marissa Grant suggested the Board members volunteer to research aspects of educating the public of the hazards of leaving dead trees standing. Such items of liability for the owner of dead trees, Ameren or Coles-Moultrie grants to remove dead trees, private tree service prices, and appropriate species of trees to place under power lines. Nichols also suggested conducting a Workshop for the public covering many of these items in the Spring before most people would buy and plant trees.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Douglas-Hart Nature Center Tree & Shrub Labeling Project.** In the Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Journal Gazette-Times Courier termed , “With or Without Leaves”, 3 of our Board members were featured. Grant and Dr. Gordon Tucker developed identification signs for trees and shrubs growing throughout the Nature Center. The aluminum signs featured “botanically correct illustrations.” Ian Pendergast-White utilized the new tree/shrub signs as he led a class from the EIU Academy of Lifelong Learning

**Jefferson School Red Bud Tree Planting.** The Board recognized members that helped 2 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Jefferson Elementary School as they planted 3 Forest Pansy Red Bud trees on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Those members were, Stan Adkins, Kent Macy and Larry Shobe.

## **OTHER**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 AM

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 8:00 AM

NOTE: The regular meeting falls on November 27<sup>th</sup>, the day before Thanksgiving.

Minutes submitted by: Stan Adkins, Secretary

*Addendum to application Form for Boards and Commissions, City of Charleston, Illinois*

### **Tree Commission**

The Charleston Tree Commission meets at 8:00 AM in City Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. Typically, no December meeting is planned.

Will you be able to attend most meetings?      YES      NO

The Commission carries out tree plantings in the fall and in the spring. It strives to organize community workshops and other events. Will you be able to help carry out these events in some capacity ?      YES      NO

Additional questions may be asked of you on a more detailed form used by the City Council for approval of members to Boards and Commissions.