

CHARLESTON TREE COMMISSION-----MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2017



SUGAR MAPLES

The meeting was convened in the City Council chambers at 6:35 PM. The meeting was held at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.

Members present were Larry Shobe, Dale McCullough, and Stan Adkins.

The minutes of September 6, 2017 were approved as printed.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Fall Tree Planting Project.** After discussion, it was recommended that the next tree planting be in the spring of 2018 in conjunction with Arbor Day. That would fulfill our Tree City USA requirement to host a tree planting. The Tree Board would try to partner with a community group; probably a youth group. The project would likely consist of planting at least 6 shade trees in city parks near ball fields to provide protection for spectators at baseball and softball games.

Arbor Day in Illinois is the last Friday in April.

- 2. Emerald Ash Borer update.** Dale McCullough reported that he has treated several ash trees against EAB infection and estimates that Charleston has 30-40

infected trees. Some of these are on city property. Next spring, infected trees will show symptoms, if they are not already.

3. **Lake Island Tract update.** Stan Adkins met with Steve Pamperin, City Planner, and Greg Culp, Public Works to discuss the Tree Board perhaps partnering with the City in the restoration program at the Lake Island Tract. The specific concern is controlling invasives. Tree Board members suggested a meeting somewhere on site out at the lake island tract perhaps during the day and at the convenience of Culp and Pamperin. Adkins will convey this thought to Pamperin and Culp and try to meet in the next few days before winter sets in.

4. **Tree Campus USA.** Kristen Gisondi, graduate student in Political Science, at Eastern Illinois University has initiated the re-application process for EIU's Tree Campus USA recognition.
Tree Board members have offered to help her with the process. Adkins has offered to meet with her on Monday, October 30 to see what information she needs to complete the re-application by December 31, 2017.

5. **Tree City USA.** For the last 2 years C.J. Applegate, Superintendent of Parks and Facilities Maintenance has completed the re-application for Tree City USA. With Tree Board members providing whatever help CJ would need, it was hoped that CJ would complete and submit the re-application for 2017.

6. **Vince Gutowski tribute.** Larry Shobe and Dale McCullough attended the tribute for former member Dr. Vince Gutowski. The dedication was held on EIU's campus on Saturday, October 7 at 10:00 AM. Family, friends, former students, and tree Board members attended. A plaque has installed in a rock and placed near the Bur Oak tree that Vince had planted as an acorn from the original large Bur Oak that stood just east of Old Main. The Tree Board had previously voted to provide \$50.00 to Pam Gutowski for the purchase of the plaque.

7. **Tree Board membership.** Dale McCullough recommended Terry Smith as a possible replacement on the Tree Board for retiring Bob Wagoner. Terry is retired from Lakeland and is currently in the Master Gardener program

8. **Problem trees.** The only tree discussed was the ash tree behind the south pavilion at sister City Park. It was agreed that it could be removed although the canopy is healthy. The tree has a weak main stem and could be a possible hazard depending on the winds during a storm. It was questioned whether the City would want to spend the money to remove the ash as it may not be an immediate problem.

9. **Other.** No other items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM with the next regularly scheduled meeting to be **Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30 in the upstairs conference room at 520 Jackson Avenue, Charleston, Illinois.**

Stan Adkins, Secretary