

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
October 16, 2012

Members Present:

Phyllis Wilson
Geri Niemann
Adam Johnson
Chad Lavin
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Also Present:

Catherine Walker

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was a tree removal request by Catherine Walker. Catherine lives at 1201 W. Prairie St. and has a very large oak tree on the SE corner of her property which is a city tree. The tree sits next to her driveway and drops acorns in her yard and driveway. She stated that this year has been a particularly bad year for the acorns and she feels overwhelmed with the task of cleaning them up and disposing of them. She is also frustrated with the inconvenience and annoyance of having to walk on them. Board members had driven by to view the tree and all expressed the same observation—that the tree looked in very good health and had a beautiful appearance. Chairman Kraft stated to Catherine that generally speaking, it was not tree board policy to recommend a healthy tree be taken down and that large oaks, such as hers, are highly valued for many reasons. Chairman Kraft offered to help her find someone she might hire to help clean up the acorns and board member Johnson offered to dispose of them on her behalf. Board member Lavin made a motion to recommend the lower branches of the tree be trimmed, primarily the branch that extends over her house, and board member Niemann seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Second agenda item discussed was a tree removal request by Judy Griffith. Judy lives at 311 W. Adams St. which is very near the corner of Adams and Webster St. The tree in question is a cedar tree on the boulevard that appears to be a stray tree of sorts that has been allowed to grow right next to the sidewalk. Its growth has now overtaken the sidewalk and makes it impassable unless you go around it. Even though the intersection is a four-way stop, it does obstruct the view of Adams street and within a few more years, new growth will extend out into the street. Taking the tree down would require little effort, time, or expense. Board member Wilson made a motion to recommend the tree be removed and board member Lavin seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Third agenda item discussed was the fate of the Gingko trees on the square. It has been determined that chemicals killed the trees so there was a discussion about the viability and desire to pursue another planting. Alderman Burtle said he had discussed the idea of enlarging the tree pits with the mayor and was also waiting on a bid from Tullis Excavating as to the cost of doing so. It was the general consensus with the board

that if another attempt is made to plant trees on the square it will necessitate enlarging the sidewalk cutouts and refilling with uncontaminated soil. Alderman Burtle and Chairman Kraft will bring more options to consider at the November meeting.

Final agenda item discussed was the open meetings act online training that all board members will be required to complete. Everyone was encouraged to get it done and reassured it will not be a difficult process.

Under other matters, Chairman Kraft said she would talk with Superintendent Jackson to see if his crews would take down the evergreens that have died at the corner of McAdams Drive and Rt. 29. At the November meeting, replacement trees for these evergreens will be discussed.

Board member Niemann made a motion to adjourn and board member Kraft seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman