

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
January 17, 2012

Members Present:

Geri Niemann
Chad Lavin
Phyllis Wilson
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Shawn Burtle

Members Absent: Adam Johnson

Also Present: Kelly Cearlock

First agenda item discussed was a tree removal request made by Kelly Cearlock. Mr. Cearlock lives at 404 West Poplar Street and the tree of concern is on the boulevard directly in front of his house. Mr. Cearlock informed the board that on numerous occasions he has been forced to file insurance claims for damage to his truck because of fallen limbs. One incident was a direct result of the ice storm a few years ago. Each board member had been by the property to evaluate the tree and it was the general consensus that the tree looks healthy and viable but in need of some trimming. The board members inquired as to alternative parking places such as his garage or in his back driveway but Mr. Cearlock stated his garage was old and not an acceptable place to park his truck. He stated that his primary request would be to have the limbs that hang over the street trimmed off. Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend the tree be trimmed—perhaps at a better time when the dead limbs would be more obvious. Board member Niemann seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Second agenda item discussed were two areas being considered for streetscaping. One area is on the NE corner of Park St. (Rt. 29) & McAdam Dr., and the second area is the corner of Water St. & Rt. 29—both areas being very close to the drivers' license facility and on state property. Chairman Kraft informed everyone that she had received approval from IDOT to work with these areas. Different ideas and suggestions were considered but the consensus was that each area had great potential but also drawbacks. More preliminary discussions are needed with Mr. Wiseman, the Mayor, and Lake Superintendent Jackson before next board meeting in February at which time board member Kraft will present their ideas and concerns with the project.

Additionally, the board discussed the need for some landscaping around the Welcome to Taylorville sign at the edge of town on Rt. 29. Board member Kraft said she would discuss this idea further with Seth McMillan and with the Mayor. It was definitely felt that this sign in particular needs some plantings around it and if possible, a light. It is expected that at the February board meeting, more detailed recommendations will be made.

Motion to adjourn by board member Niemann and seconded by board member Lavin. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5: 51 P.M.



Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
February 21, 2012

Members Present:

Geri Nieman
Chad Lavin
Phyllis Wilson
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent:

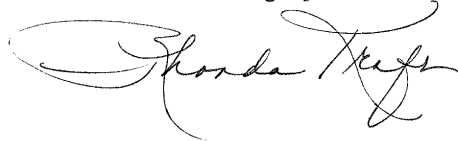
Adam Johnson

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 5:02 P.M.

The first and only agenda item discussed was the proposed plan to remove diseased and dead trees from the section of land that lies on the north side of Route 29 between McAdam Drive and Lincoln Trail. A joint effort by the Street & Sewer Department and Lake Department crews to remove the trees is scheduled for March 5th & 6th. Another day to clean the area of trash and some of the overgrown thicket will be planned after the initial removal is completed. Once the cleanup is completed, new trees will be planted according to a pre-approved landscape design. Chairman Kraft stated that she had received IDOT approval to remove and aesthetically improve the property with the stipulation that the city maintain upkeep on the property. This is the current arrangement so no added responsibilities for the property should be a concern.

Chairman Kraft made several suggestions to the board concerning replacement trees and prices. All board members discussed various ideas, options, and drawbacks of the proposed trees but it was unanimously felt that nothing more can be done until the removal and cleanup of the property is completed. A final recommendation of a proposed landscape design will be made to the city council in the next few weeks in anticipation of an early spring planting day.

Motion to adjourn by board member Lavin, seconded by board member Kraft. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 P.M.



Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
March 20, 2012

Members Present:

Phyllis Wilson
Chad Lavin
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent:

Geri Niemann
Adam Johnson

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was the proposed streetscaping project for the corner of Route #29 & McAdam Drive. Diseased and damaged trees were removed from the property by Street & Sewer Department & Lake Department crews on March 5th & 6th. This also included the removal of an understory of undesirable trees and a thicket area overgrown with invasive honeysuckle which has trapped a great deal of trash through the years. The necessity of more clean up before planting new trees was discussed. Chairman Kraft stated that she had contacted Lee Mateer from the high school to ask that some of his FFA students might volunteer a work day. She is waiting to hear back from him. Board member Lavin said that he would contact Sheriff Kettlekamp to see if there might be members of the community who are required to complete community service hours. Alderman Burtle made the suggestion that we contact a local rental store to see if they would be willing to donate the necessary equipment needed for the clean up and the tree planting process. Chairman Kraft said she would do this and solicit as much help with the project as possible.

Chairman Kraft presented copies of a proposed site plan for the area and figures on the cost of the plan. She also included a report on the current balance and pending donations to the tree fund. Donated funds continue to grow and there should be no problem with covering the cost of the new trees. Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend approval of the site plan. Board member Wilson seconded it and the motion passed 3-0. Chairman Kraft will present the plan and be available for questions at the upcoming Street & Sewer Committee meeting on March 22, 2012.

Chairman Kraft stated that she had walked the square to examine the Ginkgo trees planted two years ago. All the trees on the south, east, & west sides appear to be budding out but the two remaining trees on the north side of the square have no signs of life. It was agreed that they need to be replaced this fall.

Motion to adjourn by board member Lavin, seconded by board member Kraft. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:34 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
April 17, 2012

Members present:

Phyllis Wilson
Chad Lavin
Geri Niemann
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent:

Adam Johnson

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was a tree planting request submitted by Janet & Ernie Dorchinecz, 726 West Adams. They would like to plant a tree on the boulevard area on the west side of their house because of the recent loss of a large shade tree in the same area. Mrs. Dorchinecz was given a copy of the tree planting guidelines and desirable street tree list. Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend Mrs. Dorchinecz be allowed to plant the tree. Board member Niemann seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Second agenda item discussed was the recent streetscaping project at the corner of Route #29/McAdam Drive. All members were in agreement that it has been a successful project and everyone has received positive feedback from residents. Chairman Kraft stated that there is now more than enough money in the tree fund to pay for the first purchase of trees from Seth McMillan and enough money left over to purchase an additional two Norway Spruce trees (\$120/each) and three Prairiefire Crab Apples (\$140/each) which will complete the original site plan. Chairman Kraft made the motion to recommend the additional trees be purchased as soon as possible. Board member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Under other matters, Alderman Burtle suggested the desirable street tree list be updated for future tree planting requests. Board member Kraft said she would work on completing this update. Alderman Burtle also stated that the fire department was willing to help with watering the new trees if rain is not sufficient—somewhat of a discretionary and week by week decision. Chairman Kraft told the board that she believes she has secured a donation of mulch for all the trees.

The Gingko trees on the square were also discussed. Board member Niemann stated that the freezing nights several weeks ago are most likely responsible for their less than optimum appearance. When they first leafed out earlier this spring, they looked to be in excellent condition. It is felt they are not in danger of dying but that regular watering is critical this summer. Chairman Kraft said she would regularly water them. Replanting the trees on the north side of the square will be discussed later this summer with hopes of accomplishing that in the fall.

Chairman Kraft reported that Dick Wiseman has received more complaints from Kelly Cearlock at 404 W. Poplar St., about the large tree in front of his house. Mr. Wiseman told Kraft that city crews had trimmed the tree as promised. Chairman Kraft drove by to look at the tree on several occasions since it has leafed out and stated she feels it looks to be a very sound tree—no visible dead limbs and no low hanging limbs to impede parking or traffic. The other board members agreed to drive by again and look at the tree in question.

Motion to adjourn by board member Niemann and seconded by board member Kraft. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:42 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
June 19, 2012

Members Present:

Phyllis Wilson
Geri Niemann
Adam Johnson
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent: Chad Lavin

Also Present: Curt Robinson

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was a tree removal request made by Curt Robinson. Mr. Robinson lives at 902 West Vine St. and the tree of concern lies on the corner of the boulevard and his driveway which is adjacent to the alley. The tree is a Silver Maple and one of five large trees that line the boulevard on the east side of his property. Mr. Robinson stated that he has had ongoing problems with sewage backup in his basement for years. He was hopeful that the improvements made to the sewage infrastructure on Powers St. last year would have solved his problems, but they have not. He reported that already this year he has called Jamison Plumbing multiple times and that John Estes from Jamison Plumbing states this particular tree's roots are responsible for his problems. Chairman Kraft stated that she had discussed the situation with Mr. Estes and he emphatically reiterated Mr. Robinson's opinion that tree roots are responsible for the sewage backups. Mr. Robinson stated that if the city will take this tree down, he is willing to replant an appropriate tree as a replacement. Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend to the street and sewer committee that the tree be cut down. Board member Niemann seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Second agenda item discussed was an upcoming city Ash tree inventory. Kraft & Niemann met recently with Emily Hanson from SIU Forestry Dept. to discuss an organized effort to inventory city trees—primarily Ash trees in preparation for the Emerald Ash Borer. Various ideas about soliciting help from the Master Gardeners and the high school envirothon team were discussed. Emily Hanson and her assistant will conduct training time and volunteer their services to help Taylorville conduct this inventory.

Third agenda item discussed was the streetscaping project at the corner of Rt 29 & McAdam Drive. Alderman Burtle shared a letter from the Historical Society which praised the project and everyone agreed that there has been a great deal of positive feedback. One Norfolk Pine has been replaced but all other trees appear to be alive. The fire department has been regularly watering all the trees—without which, there would be little hope of their survival. Appreciation for the fire department was expressed. Alderman Burtle and board member Kraft purchased mulch two weeks ago and mulched all the trees. Superintendent Jackson plans to place a park bench under one of the older Oak trees in the near future and it is hopeful we may get some volunteer help in digging out some of the wild honeysuckle still coming up.

The Ginkgo trees on the square were discussed as their survival looks bleak. It is felt at this time to just leave them alone until next spring to see if any will survive. The two nights of freezing temperatures in May were the turning point for the trees and since have not been able to adequately produce a second growth of leaves. There are still signs of life in the trees and Chairman Kraft will continue to keep them watered in hopes they will bounce back next spring.

Motion to adjourn by board member Niemann and seconded by board member Kraft. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
August 21, 2012

Members Present:

Geri Niemann
Phyllis Wilson
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent:

Chad Lavin
Adam Johnson

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was the tree removal request by Karen and Tom Harvell. The Harvells live at 2305 Lakeshore Drive and the tree under consideration lies close to the street and at the south edge of their driveway. They are requesting the removal because they believe it is dying. All board members drove by their property to examine the tree before the meeting. All board members agreed that the tree looked dead and it should be removed for them. Board members Lavin and Johnson contacted chairman Kraft before the meeting to share their opinion. Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend to the street and sewer committee that the tree be removed. Board member Niemann seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

The fate of the Gingko trees on the square was also discussed. Chairman Kraft reported that she still has not received the final results from the lab which is testing the soil for chemical contamination. She did call them several weeks ago and they stated over the phone that in preliminary testing, one chemical in particular has already been found. Kraft stated she would call the lab again to inquire again as to when we might receive the full and final results of the soil testing. Presently, the results of the test will most likely determine future plans for the sidewalk cutouts on the square. Enlarging the cutouts has been discussed.

Discussion was given briefly to the corner of Rt 29 & McAdam Drive. The summer heat has been very difficult for the trees with an obvious loss of the pine trees. The consensus is that we wait until later this fall to consider a fresh clean-up and replanting of the dead trees. It is felt going forward that to give the greatest chance for survival, all new trees should be planted in the fall. Great appreciation is offered to the fire department for their help in watering the trees this past summer. Without their continued help, most likely 100% of the trees planted in that area would have not survived the summer.

Motion to adjourn by board member Niemann and seconded by board member Kraft. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman

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