

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
March 19, 2013

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Barb Grabner-Kerns

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was the upcoming city tree inventory. The primary purpose of the tree inventory will be to count and document the city Ash tree population. This will be an effort to prepare Taylorville for the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) expected to reach Central Illinois in the next few years. Emily Hanson from S.I.U. Department of Forestry will conduct a training workshop on April 13, 2013 from 9:00-12:00 P.M. The workshop will train volunteers to identify trees and gather pertinent data concerning each tree. Chairman Kraft asked for an article in the paper to announce the tree inventory and to seek volunteers. Board members will seek other qualified people to help. Lake Superintendent Alan Jackson said that he plans on removing some of the Ash trees that line the road to the lake entrance and replant with Oaks. There is a large population of Ash trees at the lake so his efforts are a proactive measure in regard to the EAB problem.

Second agenda item was a tree removal request by Street Superintendent Wiseman to remove a Sweet Gum tree at 310 Richmond St. because of the sweet gum balls it drops. All board members examined the tree and found that the tree is healthy, straight, and poses no threat to the street or property. In efforts to adhere to a basic tenet of the tree board that healthy trees not be taken down unless they pose a hazard of some sort to public property, chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend the tree be left alone. Chad Lavin seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Third agenda item discussed was the possible replanting of trees on the square. It was the consensus of the board to pursue appropriate plans and options to aid in the effort if it comes to fruition. Chairman Kraft said she would gather information and ideas that would be helpful to the alderman in regard to the proposal.

Fourth agenda item discussed was the observance of Arbor Day on April 26th. Alan Anselm has agreed to donate a tree to the courthouse lawn this year and other tree donations will be sought by chairman Kraft in the weeks to come. Arbor Day must be observed in order for Taylorville to maintain their Tree City USA status.

In other matters...Geri Niemann has submitted her resignation as a board member. She plans to redirect her community contribution and knowledge to the new community garden at Davis Memorial Church. Geri has been an exemplary tree board member and will be missed! Barb Grabner-Kerns has agreed to fill the vacancy in May. She brings a great deal of expertise and experience with her and we're grateful she's willing to serve.

Board member Niemann made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by board member Wilson. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
April 16, 2013

Members Present:

Geri Niemann
Chad Lavin
Phyllis Wilson
Rhonda Kraft

Also Present:

Greg Hager
Gene & Sue Babbs
Jamie Austif

Members Absent:

Adam Johnson
Alderman Burtle

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item discussed was/is the issue with City Sweet Gum trees. The recent request to remove a Sweet Gum Tree at 310 Richmond St., and the subsequent discussion by aldermen to eradicate all City Sweet Gum Trees was discussed. Four citizens from the Richmond St. neighborhood came to the meeting to personally express their desire to have the tree removed. They reiterated Superintendent Wiseman's complaint that they clog the catch basin at the corner of the block and cause rainwater backup when there is a heavy rain. They also stated that the sweet gum balls are a nuisance/hazard when mowing and have created problems with their sidewalk. The board listened to all arguments concerning the tree and thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting to share their experiences & concerns. Chairman Kraft stated that the board was not able to make a recommendation again as it was not an agenda item but a second request to remove the tree would be put on the May meeting agenda. Board members present agreed to go out again and look more closely at the sidewalk situation. The board discussed the situation further after the Richmond St. citizens left and it was the unanimous feeling of the board members present that the vote in March to preserve the tree would continue to stand. Chairman Kraft explained to the citizens the reasoning behind the board's vote.

Second agenda item discussed was the upcoming City Tree Inventory. Board members Niemann, Kraft, future board member Barb Kerns, and Alderman Burtle attended a training class on Saturday, April 13th to prepare for the inventory. The Tree Board has been able to enlist the help of Emily Hanson from the SIU Forestry Department to instruct and guide us through a complete City Tree Inventory to take place this spring/summer. The inventory will document and identify all City trees. Various categories of identification will be used so that risk assessment, economic benefits, and planning statistics can be compiled for City purposes. Emily and another forestry student will be back in Taylorville on April 30th to work the entire day on the inventory. We continue to seek reliable volunteers to help with the project but some preliminary training will be necessary or if working as a team (which is recommended) an inexperienced person accompany an experienced person.

Third agenda item discussed briefly was an ecology immersion class offered on October 16th at the Starhill Forest Aboretum in Petersburg. The class is entitled “Ecology & Practice of Establishing Native Oaks”. Chairman Kraft plans to attend and Mayor Brotherton asked that all board members be made aware of the opportunity so that the City might pay for at least two people to attend. All board members present declined.

Motion to adjourn by board member Kraft and seconded by board member Niemann. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
May 21, 2013

Members Present:

Phyllis Wilson
Adam Johnson
Chad Lavin
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item was to take a re-vote on removing the Sweet gum tree at 310 Richmond Street. Board members went back to re-evaluate the tree, the sidewalk, and the street. The sidewalk around the tree is in nearly perfect condition and the tree has every appearance of health and stability. Chairman Kraft made the motion to recommend the tree not be removed in keeping with previous recommendation made in March. Board member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Second agenda item discussed was the tree inventory that has begun. Good progress is being made with hopes of completely finishing the project by the end of summer. The inventory will provide a great deal of reference information/data concerning city trees and be helpful for city planning in the years to come.

Under other matters, board members discussed various details concerning other projects. The decision was made to purchase mulch for trees planted at the corner of Park and McAdam Drive. Mulching was done later in the evening.

Board member Kraft made the motion to adjourn and board member Lavin seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:24 P.M.

Rhonda Kraft, Chairman

CITY OF TAYLORVILLE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
115 North Main Street
Taylorville, Illinois 62568
Phone (217) 824-2101



NO QUORUM

AGENDA

July 12, 2013

To: Members of the Tree Board

Alderman Burtle
Adam Johnson

Phyllis Wilson
Chad Lavin
Barb Grabner Kerns

There will be a meeting of the Tree Board on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 starting at 5:00 P.M. in the Conference Room (second floor) of the Municipal Building, 115 North Main, Taylorville, Illinois.

The purpose of the meeting is for discussion and consideration in whole or in part of the following subject matters and/or motions to approve/deny/reject/review/table/amend:

1. Request to Remove Tree-701 Thompson St.
2. City Tree Inventory
3. Any Other Matters Which May Properly Come Before This Committee
4. Adjournment

Your attendance will be appreciated.

Rhonda Kraft
Chairman

RK:ss

cc:

Mayor Brotherton
City Attorney
All Superintendents
Jacque Nation
All Aldermen

WTIM
Breeze Courier
WICS
Herald & Review
WAND
State Journal Register
WCFN

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
August 20, 2013

Members Present:

Barb Grabner Kerns
Kira Propst
Rhonda Kraft
Phyllis Wilson
Alderman Burtle

Members Absent: Chad Lavin

Also Present: Doug Hughes

Dwight Bethel
Sally Bethel

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item addressed was the tree removal request by Sally Bethel. Mrs. Bethel lives at 701 Thompson St. and has two large trees on the west side of her property that she and her husband would like to remove. One tree is a large silver maple and the other, a large ash. They stated the maple tree has roots so large and extensive that they are cracking the foundation of their home. Doug Hughes stated that he has examined the tree and it appears to him that it is rotting from the inside out. From the street, the maple tree appears to be healthy. The ash tree looks in poor health and has boring holes from insects. Both trees are 2/3 city property and 1/3 home owner property. The Bethels are willing to pay for the removal of the trees and also willing to replant new trees.

Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend the Bethels be allowed to remove the trees at their expense. Board member Wilson seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0. It was recommended to the Bethels that when they are ready to replant, they choose a tree from the recommended tree list and that they plant at least one tree on city property. Their willingness to pay for the removal is a large consideration for the city. The ash tree is rapidly declining and its chances of surviving the Emerald Ash Borer are slim.

Second agenda item discussed was the potential replanting of Gingko trees in the sidewalk cutouts on the square. A motion was made by board member Kerns to recommend an estimate be obtained from Tullis Excavating for the curbing work involved in enlarging the sidewalk cutouts. Board member Kraft seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0. The replanting details were discussed and it was the unanimous feeling that because the original trees planted in 2010 died from chemical overdose, a second attempt should be made if at all possible.

Under other matters, progress with the city tree inventory was discussed. The inventory should be complete in several months and data collected will be forth coming to the aldermen. The need to update the recommended city tree list was mentioned and will be included on the September agenda.

Chairman Kraft made a motion to adjourn at 5:51 P.M., board member Wilson seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Thonda Kraft, Chairman

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
September 17, 2013

Members present:

Barb Grabner Kerns
Kira Propst
Chad Lavin
Phyllis Wilson
Rhonda Kraft
Alderman Burtle

Also present:

Evelyn McBride

Chairman Kraft called the meeting to order on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

First agenda item addressed was the tree removal request made by Evelyn McBride who resides at 504 N. Snodgrass. She has three large silver maple trees on the west side of her house. She requested the middle tree be taken down because of root related issues. She feels like the roots are too close to her house and causing her fence to heave up. There is also a dead limb lodged between two of the trees and she is concerned about it falling on a vehicle. She does not feel like she would have the resources to pay to have it taken down. All three trees are silver maples and quite large and very close together. All three trees appear to be healthy and strong in spite of being co-dominant. Chairman Kraft explained that the tree board did not actually have the power to grant or deny the removal request but we were only there to make a recommendation. It was explained that our standard policy is to not recommend a city tree be taken down unless it is dead or dying. It was also explained that city funds are very limited for tree removals. Chairman Kraft made a motion to recommend the tree not be taken down but to have the city come by and remove the dead limb that is lodged between the trees. Board member Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Second agenda item discussed was the replanting of Gingko trees on the square. Chairman Kraft stated that she is still waiting for an estimate from Tullis excavating for the curb work to enlarge the sidewalk cut-outs.

Under other matters, board member Kerns stated she is donating \$700 to the tree fund as part of the grant she received from Trees Forever Foundation. The money must be earmarked for specific trees so it was decided that the money will be used to replace several of the trees at the corner of McAdam & Route 29 that died because of the drought and heat of last summer. Board member Kerns is currently conducting a Tree Keepers course in Taylorville and would like to incorporate the replanting with her course curriculum.

Board member Propst made the motion to adjourn at 5:23 P.M. and board member Lavin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

