

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
February 22, 2017

Members Present:

Kellie Hamell
Greg Patrick
Donna Rohrer
Alderman Larry Budd

Also Present:

Mayor Greg Brotherton
Barb Grabner-Kerns
Alderman Jim Olive
Elaine Peoples

The Tree Board meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

Mayor Brotherton distributed copies of an Arboricultural Specifications and Standards Manual that had been put together by Barb Grabner-Kerns. Barb explained the need for the manual and stressed that it was something that should be reviewed each year. Kellie Hamell made a motion to recommend that the City of Taylorville accept and approve the Arboricultural Specifications and Standards Manual as presented. The motion was seconded by Greg Patrick. Motion passed 3-0.

Barb Grabner-Kerns advised the board members that she had been working with a Recover, Replant and Restore Program. She stated that she has applied for a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help fund a local program. She stated that she hoped the program could offer training sessions for City employees and provide education on topics like the Emerald Ash Borer.

Board members held a brief discussion regarding the ongoing need for tree plantings. Barb Grabner-Kerns reminded everyone that some type of community activity such as a tree planting would need to be scheduled for Arbor Day. Mayor Brotherton suggested possibly planting some trees along the bike trail.

Mayor Brotherton stated that the various City departments would soon begin preparing next year's budget and that he would be suggesting that \$2,500 be budgeted for the Tree Board activities.

Elaine Peoples was in attendance as an invited guest and mentioned that she works as a landscape designer. She stated that she loves trees and would be interested in becoming a Tree Board member. Mayor Brotherton explained the duties and responsibilities of the board members. Mayor Brotherton stated that if she was willing he would appoint her as a board member during the March 6th Taylorville City Council meeting.

Kellie Hamell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Donna Rohrer. Motion passed 3-0 and meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for March 29th at 5:00 pm.



Mayor Greg Brotherton

Taylorville City Tree Board Meeting
April 5, 2017

Members Present:

Kellie Hamell
Greg Patrick
Donna Rohrer
Elaine Peoples

Also Present:

Mayor Greg Brotherton
Barb Grabner-Kerns
Alderman Larry Budd
Jonathan & Helen Newlin

The Tree Board meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

Mayor Brotherton advised the board members that Taylorville has once again been designated as a Tree City. He thanked Barb Grabner-Kerns for the time and effort she put into preparing the required application. The Mayor stated that he is hopeful that the mayor-elect will be supportive of the Tree Board and the efforts the members undertake.

The Mayor reminded the board members that Friday, April 28th is Arbor Day and that if possible the Board needed to plan some kind of activity to help promote the day. Barb Grabner-Kerns stated that she had three redbud trees and a dogwood tree that could be planted on that day. She suggested the area on the south side of Park Street adjacent to the Driver's License Examination Station as a potential site for the plantings. The Mayor stated that he believed that portion of land is owned by the State of Illinois and that permission to plant on that property would probably be required. He stated that he would have Street & Sewer Superintendent Dick Wiseman make a phone call to the State to determine if the property could be used for the plantings. Barb stated that if the property could not be used the trees probably could be planted on the opposite side of the street in an area where the board had previously planted trees. Barb also mentioned that there had been talk about planting a tree as a memorial to former Tree Board member Rhonda Kraft but she stated that she was not sure what the status of that effort is. Board members that are available on Saturday, April 8th, will take a look at the potential planting sites to determine what area will work the best.

Jonathan Newlin addressed the board asking for its recommendation to have a large pin oak tree removed from the boulevard in front of his residence at 1018 W. Poplar Street. He stated that the roots have already pushed out the street curbing in that area and that the tree itself appears to be dying. As the result of the curb being broken a vehicles tire has been damaged. Mr. Newlin showed pictures of the tree and the damaged curb area. He stated that if the City would remove the tree he would be willing to contribute to the replacement of the curb and he would be open to planting a new tree. He stated that he had spoken with Street Superintendent Dick Wiseman and had been told that the tree is too tall for City personnel to remove and so the job would need to be contracted out. Elaine Peoples made a motion to recommend to the City that the tree be removed and that a replacement tree be planted in its place. Motion was seconded by Donna Rohrer. Motion passed 4 – 0. Elaine pointed out that it would be wise to move the replacement tree some distance from where the current tree is located because the existing root system could cause some problems. Alderman Budd cautioned that there were many areas throughout the City where curb replacement was needed and reminded everyone that the City's funds are limited so there is no guarantee as to how quickly the broken curb near the proposed tree removal could be replaced.

Barb Grabner-Kerns informed the board members that some grant funds are available from the Recover, Replant, Restore Program that she works with. Board members will work together to identify a tree project and will submit a grant application requesting funds to assist in covering the expense of the project. Barb stated that while a match of the grant funds is not a mandatory part of the grant it is suggested and the applications that provide matching funds will receive preference. There was discussion regarding potential projects and Barb mentioned that the cemetery was a place that had a lot of trees. Mayor Brotherton stated that a long term plan needed to be created for the cemetery tree replacement. He stated that the existing trees are beautiful but that many of them are dying.

Board members discussed the need for volunteers to help with the various projects. Elaine asked if high school students from the FFA program might help. Barb mentioned that Eagle Scout candidates often needed to complete projects to qualify for the rank. Mayor Brotherton suggested the possibility of having people who live in the area of any new plantings water the trees in exchange for a credit that would be used to reduce their water bill.

Mayor Brotherton stated that a procedure needs to be created and understood regarding how funds for the Tree Board will be accessed and utilized. Alderman Budd stated that he believed funds would be a line item in the Street Department budget. While these funds will be in the Street Department budget they will be earmarked for use by the Tree Board and tree removal costs will be budgeted separately.

With no additional items for discussion Donna Rohrer mad a motion to adjourn the meeting. Greg Patrick seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.



Mayor Greg Brotherton

Tree Board

June 7th 2017

Present: Kellie Hamell – Chairman, Elaine Peoples, Larry Budd - Alderman, Bruce Barry – Mayor

Absent: Greg Patrick, Donna Rohrer

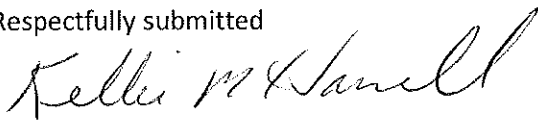
Others Present: Greg Grigsby, Tom & Shelley Carlen

The Tree Board was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council board room in the Municipal Building in Taylorville, Illinois. The purpose of this meeting was to address the agenda items and any other matters properly brought before the Board.

- 1) Greg Grigsby submitted a Boulevard Tree Removal Permit requesting removal of 2 Sweet Gum trees from his lot at the corner of Fairview & Grand Ave in the Selah Place subdivision in preparation for building on this lot. Ameren upon visiting the lot has agreed to remove one of the 2 trees due to electrical wires through the tree. They have requested that the City of Taylorville haul and dispose of the tree once it is down. Mr. Grigsby has agreed to remove the other tree at his own expense and has contacted independent contractors to provide such service. The Tree Board is recommending to the Taylorville City Council to allow Ameren & Mr. Grigsby to remove the 2 trees.
- 2) Tom & Shelley Carlen submitted a Boulevard Tree Removal Permit requesting removal of 1 Maple tree at 905 W. Rich St in Taylorville due to power lines running through and the health of the tree. Ameren upon visiting the location has agreed to remove the tree due to electrical wires through the tree. They have requested that the City of Taylorville haul and dispose of the tree once it is down. The Tree Board is recommending to the Taylorville City Council to allow Ameren to remove the tree.
- 3) The dedication ceremony for the red bud tree honoring former Tree Board member Rhonda Craft originally set for 4/29/17 was discussed. The Call Julie will have to be renewed and Kellie Hamell agreed to make the call.
- 4) Also discussed were the 7 trees that the City Council has approved removal of. The Tree Board only knew of 1 tree at 1018 W Poplar St that had been requested and recommended to be removed.

A motion was made by Larry Budd and seconded by Elaine Peoples to adjourn at 5:25.

Respectfully submitted



Kellie Hamell

Tree Board Chairman