

Whitehouse Tree Commission  
Minutes of Meeting – August 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Sheri Luedtke at 6:04 PM. Members Present: Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke, Janet Traub, Dianne Toffler, Elliot Tramer, and Chris Manzey.

Guest: Don Flenner

Chris Manzey moved to accept the minutes of the July 26, 2018 meeting. Elliot Tramer seconded. Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

*Tree City USA and Growth Award Applications* – Sheri posed a question concerning the Silva Cell installation project in downtown Whitehouse being counted toward our Growth Award application. Elliot responded by saying he had re-checked Growth Award categories, based on his email from Stephanie Miller in May. He thinks that just getting Council to adopt Silva Cells plus the 6 points for hosting Tree Commission Academy will be sufficient points for this year's Growth Award. He will re-check with Stephanie to see if that is the case. Elliot further explained that we can earn Growth Award points in 2019 by having Stephanie come to actually see the installation and talk with people about the how the project is going.

Sheri reported that she has many photos and other documents from activities such as the Boy Scouts digging holes for the Arbor Day tree planting, photos from Arbor Day, etc. All of these are for Tree City renewal.

*Farmers Market* – Sheri reported that the market was winding down and that she and Amy Schultz had given away most of the tree whips left over from Arbor Day. Their major thrust these past Saturdays was to spread word about the Seminar after today's meeting.

*Review Fall Tree Planting Schedule and Tree Inventory* – reports not given because Mark Thomas was not present due to illness.

*Forms and Documents* – none

### **New Business**

*Review Steeplechase Plat 4 and 5* – Don Flenner from Hallmark Development Company petitioned the Tree Commission to approve the planting of Black Gum trees on 7 lots in Plat 5 in Steeplechase development. He explained that Red Horsechestnut trees were already planted on 13 lots on West Stallion Circle, while 5 Black Gum trees were planted on East Stallion Circle. These lots are all in Plat 4. He is now opening Plat 5 and would like to continue planting Black Gums on the 7 lots that complete the cul-de-sac of East Stallion Circle (lots 91 to 97). The Tree Commission members present approved his petition. Don also wanted suggestions for which

trees to plant on the remaining 17 lots along Rockingham in Plat 5. After Don left the meeting, Janet Traub opened the Master Plan, found the Steeplechase development, sketched the surrounding streets, and determined which trees were already planted in the area. After discussion by all the members, it was decided that our recommendation will be that lots 104, 105, 106, and 107 should be planted in River Birch thereby continuing the existing pattern of River Birches on Rockingham Drive. Lots 98-103 and 108-114, on the other hand, should have Tulip Trees. Sheri will communicate these recommendations to Don.

*Quarry Invasives*—Janet Traub reported that she had emailed Todd Crail (University of Toledo) to arrange a date for his students to remove invasive plants along the rim of the quarry. He recommended that Janet should explore dates toward the end of September because the beginning of the school year was very busy. Dates later in September were discussed and Janet thought the weekend of September 22 would work with most schedules. She will consult with Amy Schultz to see whether Saturday or Sunday worked best.

Janet Traub moved adjournment, Elliot Tramer seconded, and at 6:51 PM the meeting was adjourned. The Tree Commission members proceeded to council chambers for the Tree Commission-sponsored seminar “Living in the Oak Openings” presented by Ashlee Decker of the Nature Conservancy. There were 29 people in attendance and lively discussion followed the presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Manzey