

Whitehouse Tree Commission

Minutes of meeting on June 27th, 2019

Commissioners Present: Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke, Amy Schultz, Elliot Tramer, Chris Manzey, Dianne Toffler, Richard Bingham (Council Representative), visitor Valerie Werning, mother of Noah Werning, Garrett Zisk, grandson of Elliot and Chris

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke at 7:05 P.M. Minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting were approved as printed. Elliot moved and Chris seconded it . The motion passed.

Elliot Tramer and Chris Manzey introduced their grandson, Garrett Zisk. He is a recent graduate of Penta County, working in Whitehouse Public Works Department and very interested in tree commission business.

Old Business

Farmer's Market: The first Farmer's Market will be on Wednesday, July 10th at 4:00P.M. It will be held in the park near the gazebo. The Tree Commission will have a table when possible. Trees from Arbor Day have been potted up and will be available to those interested. We will also have information on tree care for those interested.

40th Anniversary Urban Forestry Conference: Elliot and Chris attended this conference on June 21, 2019. They shared information from the speakers: Dr. Jason Grabosky (Rutgers University), and Alan Siewert, Regional Forester, NE Ohio.

*Dr Grabosky presented a look into Ohio's future (year of 2059) after climate change. He feels that Drones will be a useful tool in urban forestry decisions and development. He also feels that water issues will be a key factor in planting trees. "Extremes more important than mean's"

*Alan Siewert, Regional Forester, NE Ohio gave a presentation and included a tangible gift for the listeners. It was a handsome glass. A simplified priority list was printed on the glass. Highest to lowest was printed on the glass:

Planning

Removal

Pruning

Training

Watering

Mulching

Site prep being the lowest priority.

Information was also given at the forum for ranking tree cities. Employing an urban forester on city payroll was considered an important step for the future. Also a five year strategy plan should be updated and in effect. A flexible budget to cope with unpredictable environment is also an important factor.

Chris and Elliot also heard a presentation by Bartlett Tree Experts. The subject was tree decay detection and technologies. The process uses probes and printed sliced views and uses resistographs and tomography. This process is a useful tool, but cost is a factor.

They concluded that updated handouts concerning trees are now available. Sheri will inventory existing handouts and order new if needed.

Eagle Scout Project: Valerie Wering attended the meeting for her son, Noah, who is at a boy scout camp out West this week. The group has suggested that Noah work on Memory Trees for his scout project. A discussion was held with ideas for Noah tagging Memorial Trees with botanical information. The group also discussed the possibility of using cell phones to scan and accessing information. Patty Toneff at Woodlawn Cemetery was suggested as a contact person. Woodlawn is already using the system

Tree Inventory: Two trees were removed that were hollow. Stress and age were a factor.

Forms and Docs: Amy suggested we look at existing forms and update with inventory for the future. Sheri will handle this.

New Business: A date was set to evaluate trees at the three cemeteries in the village. This will be started on July 20th. In the future all cemeteries in the area will be under the care of a regional cemetery board. This group is hoping to improve the care of all cemeteries in weed control, asphalt care, tree care to improve overall visual look. The tree commission is being asked to help to evaluate trees health, and possibly adding trees where needed.

Sheri will contact Steve Pilcher to see if there is software to help with this project.

An update on silva cells was discussed. Whitehouse is using silva cells in the down town streetscape project. Silva cells help the overall health of trees planted in downtown areas.

There was no more tree business to discuss and it was moved (Michelle) and seconded (Amy) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Toffler