

Whitehouse Tree Commission
Minutes of the September 23, 2021 Meeting

Present: Sheri Luedtke (chair), Diane DeYonker, Christine Manzey, Dianne Toffler, Elliot Tramer; staff representative Mark Thomas.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes of the August 26, 2021 meeting were approved as written (moved Elliot Tramer, second Dianne Toffler)

Old Business:

- A. Tree City USA renewal and 2021 Growth Award applications: Sheri Luedtke has almost completed the Tree City USA application and will give it to Jill Gundy in October. Elliot Tramer reported that we appear to have 13 points in hand for the Growth Award, as follows: Tree signage project (at least 2), Arbor Day partnering with Toledo Edison (2), New member Diane DeYonker (2), Increased budget over 2020 (4), and a net increase in trees on public land (3). Elliot will contact Stephanie Miller to resolve some questions related to the Growth Award application, with the goal of finalizing the application by the end of October.
- B. The tree signage project (What is a Tree Worth?) was officially completed on September 16, an event attended by five Commissioners and Karen Gerhardinger of the Mirror newspaper. 20 trees representing 18 species bear signs telling how much money each is saving in 2021 and over a ten-year period, assuming normal growth rates. Savings categories included stormwater retention, improved air quality, utility costs, and property value enhancement. Each sign is firmly attached with zip ties that can easily be replaced as the trees grow. Elliot Tramer prepared a brief explanatory text for the village web site and facebook page; we thank Mark Schriefer for his assistance in posting this information.
- C. Facebook ideas: Sheri Luedtke is trying to post fresh information every two weeks. Diane DeYonker suggested that a good topic for posting this fall is to urge people to not destroy their fallen leaves, but to leave some in mulch beds and other places where they can provide overwintering homes for insects and other small animal life.
- D. Tree inventory: (1)“The Preserve” residential development on Texas Street needs to be surveyed to designate street trees for inclusion in the Master Plan. After discussion it was suggested that we ask Jill to send us diagrams of the two plats, and that members should drive through the Preserve to ascertain the potential for adding trees along the public right-of-way.
(2) Mark Thomas reported that trees were removed from 3 locations, 6516 and 6517 Weckerly Drive and the Westwyck cul-de-sac. In the Master Plan, plantings of Red Oak, Sugar Maple, and Tuliptree about the cul-de-sac. Residents want a colorful-flowering, medium-sized tree for the cul-de-sac. The Commission suggested that a serviceberry (*Amelachier*) be planted.

New Business: None.

Adjournment at 8:20 p.m. (moved Dianne Toffler, second Diane DeYonker)

Respectfully submitted,

Elliot Tramer