

Whitehouse Tree Commission
Minutes – meeting of September 21, 2023

Members present: Sheri Luedtke (chair), Chris Manzey, Michelle Tippie, Dianne Toffler, Elliot Tramer, Staff rep. Brian Petrell, Council rep. Richard Bingham.
Guest attendee: Chuck Kethel

Meeting was called to order 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of the August 24, 2023 meeting were approved (moved Tramer, 2d Manzey)

Old Business:

- A. Sheri Luedtke is preparing the application for renewal of our Tree City USA status. Elliot Tramer distributed an updated version of our 2023 Growth Award qualifiers. Data are still needed to support a positive tree plantings/removal ratio and a budget increase. Sheri will email Elliot photos of the Arbor Day planting and Steph Miller's interpretive program.
- B. Tree Inventory: Brian Petrell reported two storm-damaged trees were removed. 50 trees ordered from Woody Warehouse for Sandra Park have been ordered and will be planted beginning in early October. They are paid for by funds from our \$10,205 Urban Forest Restoration Grant. The list of trees: River Birch 4, Bitternut Hickory 5, Catalpa 1, Hackberry 5, Black Walnut 1, Sycamore 4, Swamp White Oak 5, Bur Oak 5, Swamp Chestnut Oak 4, Pin Oak 3, Shumard Oak 5, Black Willow 3, American Basswood 5. The cost was \$7697.10. Discussion ensued about how the remaining funds could be spent. 50 gator bags will be needed, as well as stakes. Brian will ask Steve Pilcher how the funds can be used.
Brian stated that 27 street trees were ordered from North Branch at a cost of \$6052. Sheri asked for a motion to approve removal of two dying White Birches from cul-de-sacs on Briarwood in Birch Pointe Farms. Motion passed (moved Tippie, 2d Manzey). The master plan lists Pagoda Dogwoods as replacement trees for that site.
- C. Forms and Documents – no report
- D. Facebook ideas – Chris Manzey mentioned Dr. Doug Tallamy's idea of using your fallen leaves as mulch instead of commercial mulches, to allow overwintering stages of caterpillars in the leaves to survive. We are in the midst of a severe decline of insect life that is essential for the survival of young songbirds.

New Business:

- A. The Scheer family of Perrysburg has donated a tree in memory of Tim Toffler. It will be either a crimson king Norway Maple or a male Ginkgo. Dianne Toffler suggested planting it along the bike trail; all approved.
- B. Guest Chuck Kethel spoke in support of creating a disc golf course in Sandra Park. Trees purchased by the Urban Forest Restoration grant will be used to line the fairways. He hopes some shrubbery will also be planted in the future, obtained by private donations. A fee of \$10 will be charged to play the course. After discussion, Michelle Tippie moved to "approve the installation of a disc golf course at Sandra Park, using trees from the grant" (2d Manzey). Passed unanimously.

- C. Sheri noted there will be a concert Thursday Sept. 28 to support the Whitehouse library.
- D. Brian noted a communication from Stephanie Miller suggesting changes in our Master Tree plan, as follows: (1) remove horse chestnuts; (2) alternate American Elms and Hackberries to slow the spread of Dutch elm disease; (3) substitute for Black Gums and Sweetgums because the soil type is inappropriate where they are scheduled to be planted.

Motion to adjourn (Tippie, 2d Toffler). The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elliot Tramer