

Beech Grove Greenscape Commission Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2015
Hornet Park Community Center, Room O

The meeting came to order at 5:00pm.

Members present: Beth Berg, Sister Sheila Fitzpatrick, Dave Miller, Brenda Wilson.

Dave Miller suggest tabling election of officers until the February meeting when there should be a new appointee from the City Council. All agreed.

Monthly reports to the City Council was discussed. Members decided to submit meeting minutes to the Mayor and Council members as our monthly report and we can be contacted if there are any questions, comments or concerns.

Beth Berg noted the Signature Form for the 2014 Tree City USA Growth Award lists the point total as 17. The total points should be 12 and this is the number shown online within the application, so this appears to be a math error in the software. Approval for this award and Tree City USA recertification is typically received in April.

Dave presented two projects which the commission could work on this year totaling at least 10 points for another Growth Award:

- A Tree-Care Emergency Plan for the City (4 points). This would include an agreement with a private tree contractor to be on call for the city in the event of a severe storm, with a designated response time and staging area. Dave will contact Brad Meriwether to discuss this.
- Biomass Recycling (6 points). A new or significantly improved biomass recycling program and may include street tree leaves, lawn waste, tree limbs/removals, Christmas trees, etc. The timing for this project seems good with the proposed recycling program for the city. Dave will contact Brad about this as well.

Dave also suggested providing a link to the Indiana Wildlife Federation on the Community Resources page on the city website. It has a lot of good information for residents and a kid's page with a number of activities and resources for kids to learn more about Indiana wildlife and habitat. Sister Sheila suggested the Cornell University website as good source for information. Beth will follow-up on this and also suggested the commission consider creating a Facebook page as another tool for communications.

Removal of invasive species was briefly discussed. Dave shared that the best way to get rid of invasive plants such as honeysuckle is to cut the plant low to the ground and dab Round-up on the fresh cut. The herbicide will be drawn into the root system and kill the plant without damaging nearby plants or soaking into the ground.

Sister Sheila gave an update on progress with the Peace and Nature Garden at the Benedict Inn. Artwork and a peace pole will be installed this spring. Another work day is being planned for Saturday, April 11th from 9:00am - 12noon, with a final celebration on Wednesday, April 29th. An

announcement of dates and times will be made when plans are finalized. They are also looking for solutions on some drainage issues and water pooling on parts of the walk path.

Beth gave a report for the Parks. The three dead and dying trees have been removed from the center of the roundabout and the flagpole will be used for some type of Christmas tree display in December. The Better Brighter Beech Grove Committee has donated funds for six new flagpoles at the War Memorial in Sarah T. Bolton Park, one for each branch of the military and a POW flag. The Mayor is also planning for a Tree City USA flag to fly in the park.

There will be a number of projects completed in the parks this year with funding from the Redevelopment Commission. A bid notice will be put out soon for a new, paved parking lot at Hartman Park and repairs to the Hornet Park parking lot. The city and RDC are also moving forward with the Greenway project and are working with CrossRoad Engineers to reduce the scale of the project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Secretary, Beech Grove Greenscape Commission

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 5:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center
(moved from Monday due to the President's Day holiday)