

Greenscape Commission Meeting
September 20, 2010, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room D

Members present: Dave Miller, Lynn Huff, and Beth Berg. Guests: Keith Holdsworth and Mike Pence.

Dave Miller will be doing an online seminar on Wednesday, September 29th, to learn about the Tree City online recertification process. Beth Berg has signed up for the webinar as well.

A nomination for Mrs. LouAnn Pieper for Individual of the Year was submitted to the Indiana Urban Forest Council. Awards are given at the IUFC Fall Conference in October. Berg will let everyone know whether or not Mrs. Pieper is selected.

The city removed seven hazard trees on August 30 and September 1, two Littleleaf Lindens at South Grove Park and five trees in the first block of South 11th Avenue – two Silver Maples, two Bradford Pears, and one Cherry Plum. These removals have been noted in the tree inventory database.

Lynn Huff received software from Pam Louks, IUFC that could be used to store and track our tree inventory data. At our next meeting, the commission will review the software. Huff is also working on a letterhead for the commission.

Keith Holdsworth from the Marion County Tree Board gave a presentation on proposed amendments to zoning ordinances that will establish a minimum level of tree canopy coverage for new development. The tree canopy coverage area will vary according to land use, with an average coverage area of 40%. Current tree canopy coverage for Marion County is 23.3%. The tree canopy coverage area can be met by planting new trees, with incentives for preserving existing trees. If adopted, the new requirements will affect new development and also properties that undergo extensive redevelopment throughout the county, including Beech Grove. The proposed amendments will first go to Mayor Ballard for approval, then to the Department of Metropolitan Development, and finally to the City-Council Council for adoption. Holdsworth will be communicating with the commission on progress of the ordinance through the approval process.

Mike Pence, Beech Grove City Council At-Large, and Dave Miller had several questions on specific areas of the proposed ordinance.

A separate Woodland Protection article is also under consideration as part of the county's Tree and Flora Ordinance. Holdsworth will investigate whether this ordinance will affect Beech Grove.

The commission shared a copy of Beech Grove's Trees and Flora Ordinance, which Holdsworth will share with the group looking at updating the Indianapolis Flora Ordinance as a good example.

Holdsworth will also contact the Indianapolis Public Access Cable Channel about the possibility for Beech Grove airing several tree related programs. There are four five-minute shows that are very well done and provide excellent information on planting and maintaining trees, and also the benefits provided by trees.

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, October 18, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg, Greenscape Commission Secretary