

Greenscape Commission Meeting
Monday, April 20, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room A

Members present: Dave Miller, Tim Latimer, Brian Clayton, Mike Masterson and Beth Berg. Guests: Mike Pence and Lynda Pack

The city received its recertification as a Tree City from the Arbor Day Foundation. Mrs. LouAnn Pieper, art teacher at South Grove Intermediate School, informed Dave Miller that their PTA has purchased a Tulip Poplar tree to plant on the school's property. South Grove student Briana Spurgeon was a regional winner in the Arbor Day poster contest. The date for the planting is still being worked out, but the commission agreed it would be an excellent opportunity for the annual Arbor Day celebration. It was also agreed to donate this years Arbor Day flag to the school.

Regarding the tree inventory, Beth Berg reported she is working with Mike Condre of the Schneider Corporation on creating the database. Miller provided a list of the most commonly found trees. There will also be an "other" category for trees not on the list and an "unknown" category. We will need to plan for training workshops and get the field guides ordered for an identification reference. Tim Latimer questioned whether we would be ready to make use of IUPUI student volunteers for their first summer session. It was decided we would not need them that soon as we will work on street trees before parks trees. Student volunteers would be of the most value to us with data collection in the parks.

Berg gave a brief report from the Parks Board. The city has been awarded \$255,000 federal stimulus money to renovate or replace the bridge in Sarah Bolton Park. The project must be ready for bidding by November of this year, so the board is anticipating construction to be completed in the spring of 2010. The current structure will not be reopened. There will also be a summer film series held in Sarah Bolton, open free to the public on Friday evenings.

Mike Masterson received preliminary plans for Phase One of the greenway trail. There was a lengthy discussion on the difficulty of getting to those trees along some parts of the proposed trails, and also whether we want to include them all in the inventory as many will be removed during construction of the trail. We may need to consult with Pam Louks on that point.

A number of problem trees were discussed. A large tree on private property in the 200 block of north 17th Avenue was damaged and blocking the sidewalk after a recent storm. Per the tree ordinance, property owners can be cited for such an obstruction and then have 60 days to take care of the problem. The property is in foreclosure, so that will be an issue in determining ownership. The city has cut the tree back to clear the sidewalk, but it needs to be removed entirely. Miller will check on the status of replacing the street tree removed last year from the right-of-way in front of Clyde Bobb's house on south 9th Avenue. An aristocrat pear that was planted under utility lines in the Emerson Avenue median was removed and relocated in Sarah Bolton Park. There were many trees around the city that were to be removed during the winter, but this work was not done due to funding issues.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Greenscape Commission Secretary