

Greenscape Commission Meeting
Monday, March 16, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room A

Members present: Dave Miller, Tim Latimer, Brian Clayton and Beth Berg. Guest: Lynda Pack

Lynda Pack, a new member of our community from New Jersey, attended the meeting to offer her services to the commission. Lynda has offered to help with data collection for the tree inventory. She will also be visiting the commission's web pages and offer suggestions on what information could be added to assist residents with tree planting and landscaping projects.

Dave Miller reported on the workshop he attended last month. The workshop provided some very good information on assessing hazardous trees and risk management issues. Most cities and towns, especially with the current financial climate, are willing to accept a certain amount of risk with determining how quickly they will act on removing trees that pose a hazard. City ordinances, permits and violations were also discussed. Marion County has an excellent environmental court and judge who are well set to handle those issues. There is a question as to whether Beech Grove, Speedway and Lawrence, as excluded cities, are included in the jurisdiction of that court. Miller will contact Sam Merl as far as compliance issues with hazardous trees on private property. As evidenced during recent storms, private trees can also pose a threat to public property and right-of-ways. Miller will also follow up on a verbal commitment from Complete Tree Care to provide two crews for emergency tree service if needed.

There are some new trees being looked at as appropriate street trees. Tom Hannon will be contacting the JF Schmidt Company in Oregon regarding the possibility of getting sample trees to plant in the city parks. Beth Berg suggested that might be good for an Arbor Day celebration.

Berg informed the commission that the official start date for our tree inventory grant is January 14, 2009 and that the project will need to be completed by June of 2010. The first progress report to the state is due in June of this year. She had a meeting with Sarah Kincaid, Beech Grove Clerk-Treasurer, on the process of purchases through the city. It was decided that for materials, the best course is for Berg to make purchases out-of-pocket and then be reimbursed by the city. The City Council will be asked to make an additional appropriation to the 2009 budget for the amount of the grant, \$2,200. Berg will also be meeting with Brad Meriwether to set the commission up with Keri Brennan from the Schneider Corporation to create the database necessary to use the city's handheld GPS unit for data collection. Using the Indiana Department of Natural Resources PDAs is still an option, but would not record the GPS coordinates needed for inclusion as a layer on the city's GIS website. Tim Latimer will contact Dr. Ritchie and invite her to our next meeting to discuss the involvement of IUPUI students in the data collection effort.

Brian Clayton shared an invitation from Sr. Cathy Anne for a tour of the Benedictine Center grounds at 6:00pm on Wednesday, April 15. The sisters have 1200 trees, 200 species, on 50 acres. Each individual tree is tagged and mapped. She also has a lot of information on different grants available for tree plantings she is willing to share with us, sources of funding they have made use of on their property. Clayton also informed the commission that St. Paul Hermitage is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. They will be planting 100 trees this year, which could be another good event for Arbor Day.

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, April 20, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg

Greenscape Commission Secretary