

Greenscape Commission Meeting
Monday, June 16, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room B

Members present: Dave Miller, Tim Latimer, Brian Clayton, Mike Masterson, and Beth Berg

Dave Miller shared the new Tree City flag which will be presented to Holy Name Church at the Arbor Day planting on Saturday, June 28. Brian Clayton took charge of the flag and will also see that is displayed by Holy Name, possibly in the Boy Scout meeting room. Clayton will also contact Parks Director Tom Hannan to coordinate the purchase and delivery of the trees to be planted, one of which will replace a large tree lost last year. Commission members have no specific duties for the Arbor Day ceremony, but are invited to attend.

Beth Berg reported that the grant application from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources/Urban Forestry Council will not be available for another three weeks. If successful, the grant would provide monies to do our tree inventory next year, but matchings funds would need to be available for all or part of the award. The commission talked about about resources that would be needed to undertake the tree inventory, including measuring devices, software/database, bodies to help with the "footwork" and the need to hire a consultant to assist with the determination of hazardous tree status. Members expressed a willingness to take on much of the work themselves, but liability issues make the use of an expert for identification of hazardous trees advisable.

There was a lengthy discussion on what items would be included in a budget request for the commission. Tim Latimer summarized suggested items as follows:

- Cost to remove damaged/dead trees and stumps
- Cost to replace removed trees (currently we pay around \$300 for a tree with a 2 3/4" trunk)
- Cost to maintain existing trees in the public domain
- Cost of educational materials
- Cost of special projects, which for 2009 would be our tree inventory

A question was raised as to whether language needs to be added to the current tree ordinance to allow the commission to present a budget and also establish a fund to accept donations. Berg will follow up with the mayor on this.

There was discussion about possibly having a booth at this year's Fall Festival, to raise funds and also offer materials to educate the public on tree care and raise awareness of the commission's work. Latimer will look into the availability of booth space with the Promoter's Club. Mike Masterson also brought up the idea of addressing the Greater Beech Grove Chamber of Commerce as another opportunity to spread the word about the commission and raise funds.

The current Tree Ordinance (Special Ordinance #8, 2005) was reviewed. In addition to the possible need to add language for a budget request and fund for donations/gifts, the following points were addressed: Section 3. Term of Office - incorporate the staggered terms adopted by the City Council this year; Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities - adding language for working with the Redevelopment

Commission on their projects; Section 13. Duties of Property Owners - leave intact; Section 19. Duty and Enforcement of Tree and Flora Ordinance - leave intact; Section 32. Emergency Management - verified that this section of the ordinance is being taken care of; correct spelling errors.

Members talked about some of the things they would like to see on the city webpage(s) for the commission. Masterson shared some ideas from several websites of other cities. Items mentioned were a mission statement, a list of commission members with names and contact information along with their terms of office and appointing body, and email/phone contact for receiving questions from the public. Masterson also presented a "Tree Planting Permit Checklist". He suggested the checklist be linked to as a downloadable file that would also include a permit form, list of approved trees, and list of trees NOT approved for planting. The site would also incorporate educational information and links. Miller will invite Lynn Rekeweg, the city's IT person, to the next meeting to discuss developing the website.

Clayton presented several slogans he came up with to be considered for the website as well as promotional literature: "The Beech Tree Capital of Indiana", "Indiana's best kept secret", "Marion county's best kept secret", and "Beech Grove, 100 years and still growing."

In previous meetings the commission discussed keeping an eye out for areas that could benefit from a beautification effort. At the suggestion of the mayor, the Clean City zones were used as a basis for divvying up the city as follows: Brian Clayton - zones 1 and 2, Mike Masterson - zones 3 and 8, Beth Berg - zones 4 and 7, Dave Miller - zones 5 and 6, Tim Latimer - zones 9 and 10, and everyone will share zone 11.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 21, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Greenscape Commission Secretary