

Greenscape Meeting Minutes

April 20th, 2015, 5:00pm, Hornet Park Community Center

Members present: Beth Berg, Sister Sheila Fitzpatrick, Dave Miller, Brenda Wilson and Stuart Wilson. Stuart Wilson was welcomed as the newest member of the Commission.

After a brief discussion regarding officers for 2015, Beth Berg agreed to serve as Chairman and Brenda Wilson agreed to serve as Secretary.

Beech Grove has received a Tree City USA 10 Year Award and also its second Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. Mayor Buckley will recognize this achievement at the May Council meeting. Stuart will present the crystal award to the city. A special Tree City USA flag and two street signs are already at the Mayor's office.

Dave Miller reported on progress for this year's Growth Award projects. He has spoken with Brad Meriwether about a storm management plan - the city has staging areas established but no agreement with a tree service for responding, and biomass recycling - Ray's currently picks up tree limbs and leaves collected but we need to find out what they do with the debris.

Stuart asked if these projects tie in with the Clean Community initiative. That is something the commission should investigate.

Stuart is interning with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and offered to assist with applying for a neighborhood trees grant. Two possible areas for planting new trees in the city were discussed; trees for shade at the Middle School softball diamonds and at Hartman Park. It was suggested the Middle School have the higher priority as the need has been discussed in the past and the area is used for school athletics as well. The project would require participation of the school and athletic organizations. Brenda will contact Mr. Gearhart to see if there is an interest in pursuing this.

Beth stated we still need to look at the new trees on Main Street to put an address with each tree for the inventory. She also suggested inspecting trees on Emerson Avenue to update the inventory.

Dave commented that whoever is responsible for maintaining Emerson Avenue this year is doing nice work. Beth stated Borgmann Enterprises has the contract for Emerson Ave, Main Street, the roundabout and Centennial Park.

An Arbor Day event for the year was briefly discussed. Dave stated fall is typically the best time of year for the tree planting, focusing on native trees, and partnering with another organization has been successful in drawing greater interest.

Sister Sheila Fitzpatrick shared that the Peace and Nature Garden at the Benedictine Center will have their Grand Opening Wednesday, April 29th, 2015 from 6pm - 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Wilson Secretary, Beech Grove Greenscape Commission