

Greenscape Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 18, 2014
Hornet Park Community Center

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Latimer at 5:00pm.

Members present: Tim Latimer, Dave Miller, Beth Berg, Brenda Wilson and Sister Sheila Fitzpatrick.

Members reviewed the requirements for Tree City USA recertification and Beech Grove will have no problem meeting or exceeding them for 2014. While there is no line item in the city budget for tree care, the leaf and brush pick-up programs always push expenditures well over the required \$2.00 per capita spending. Volunteer hours also count and include commission member's time for meetings, reports, tree inspections, etc., and community member's time for projects and Arbor Day.

Criteria for a Tree City USA Growth Award were also reviewed. The recent re-inspection and recommendations for trees on the hazard list may qualify, as well as an updated analysis of the city's urban forest. Latimer suggested we look at the current tree inventory database at our next meeting, which includes removals and new plantings since 2009. Dave Miller suggested looking into a sidewalk policy, which would set guidelines for protecting and preserving trees when existing sidewalks are replaced or new sidewalks installed. He will check policies in other cities and contact Brad Meriwether to discuss whether this would work for Beech Grove.

Sister Sheila reported a number of trees are being removed at the Benedictine Center property. Miller will inspect their ash trees for signs of Emerald Ash Borer infestation. She also gave an update on progress with installation of the Peace and Nature Garden. Saturday, October 18th will be a volunteer work day for the project and also the Arbor Day tree planting event. Details will be announced later. Latimer will contact Meriwether about purchasing a tree for the event.

Latimer gave an update from the INDOT meeting he attended regarding the work on I465 and I65. He has asked State Representative Cindy Kirchhofer about who will have responsibility for maintaining the right-of-way on the I465 see of Ada Lane.

The next meeting of the Greenscape Commission will be Monday, September 15, 2014, 5:00pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Secretary, Beech Grove Greenscape Commission

