

Beech Grove Greenscape Commission Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2017
Hornet Park Community Center

Meeting came to order at 5:00 pm

Members present: Beth Berg, Sister Sheila Fitzpatrick, Matt Nelis and Brenda Wilson. Absent: Stuart Wilson.

Sr. Sheila shared information from the August meeting of the Mayor's Community Based Initiative (CBI) Committee. Everyone received a survey questionnaire to complete and return to Sheila before their next meeting, which will be September 26th. Each member was also asked to think of one thing we would like to see happen in Beech Grove in each of four categories: 1) Public Safety, 2) Infrastructure, 3) Quality of Life and 4) Economic Development. Members briefly discussed that the benefits of planting more trees would actually apply in each category.

Matt stated the next quarterly meeting for the Franciscan Trail (Greenway) has not yet been scheduled. He did attend a recent Redevelopment Commission (RDC) meeting and shared that plans are to place quarter-mile markers along the trail. Also, the RDC wants to do something with the bridge over 465 to recognize Beech Grove.

Sr. Sheila and Brenda discussed progress on the three tree inventory estimates needed for consideration with a DNR Community Forestry Grant. Nate Faris has suggested software for mapping city trees. Aren Flint has suggested including an assessment of the city's tree canopy and also locating open planting sites.

Members discussed tree selection for the project on 18th Avenue between Main and Albany. A number of possibilities were brought forward and reviewed with information Sr. Sheila shared from Cornell University. No final suggestion was determined as the dimensions of the individual planting areas will determine the size of tree which can be planted. It was decided the following criteria be considered for the selection: native species, no maples (currently prohibited for street trees), no invasives, little/no litter, salt tolerance, resistance to pests/diseases, and no low branching if placement will be close to the benches. There was also a suggestion to fill the tree boxes with good soil if at all possible and leave space for a proper amount of mulch to be applied without spilling over onto the sidewalk. Beth will contact Tom Hannan to discuss the matter and report back to the commission.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next meeting: Monday, September 18, 2017, 5:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg, Secretary