

Greenscape Commission Meeting
November 19, 2012 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center

Members present: Tim Latimer, Dave Miller, Beth Berg, Lynn Huff and Jacki Brown.
Guests: Tom Hannan - BG Parks Director, Mike Kroschell – Schneider Corporation, Lance Stahley – CrossRoad Engineers

The Commission continued review of the landscape plans for the Main Street Project with Tom Hannan, Mike Kroschell and Lance Stahley. Dave Miller met previously with those involved with the project in May of 2010. Miller stressed the goal for the project is to correct problems for Main Street businesses and not to create more. Leaf litter is one concern for business owners, which will increase with the additional number of trees to be planted along the street.

Kroschell stated his job is to develop a landscape plan following the direction given by the city and the plan presented represents that direction. He wanted to hear from the commission members to understand their concerns. He further explained that he can only make recommendations to INDOT regarding any proposed changes.

Several specific issues were discussed.

Maple and Sycamore species are on the list of Prohibited Street Trees for the city, which eliminates the 'Emerald Queen' Norway Maple and 'Bloodgood' London Plane Tree currently in the plan. Kroschell suggested Zelkova as a possible replacement choice. Zelkova is a good and reliable street tree that has become a popular replacement for Elm trees in urban settings.

Proposed placement of some trees was mentioned, in particular those in front of existing yard trees, in close proximity to existing buildings and to each other which would restrict future growth. Kroschell stated there will be more space for trees created with the narrowing of the street and that field adjustments will be made at planting time in consideration of planting strip size and existing buildings and trees. Some trees will be recommended for removal, such as two Silver Maples growing close to Main Street at Central Elementary. Also, while there are few street trees on the side streets between Main Street and the alleys, any existing street trees in those areas will be removed for the project.

A question was raised about whether leaf litter from trees planted close to street corners would cause problems with blocking storm drain inlets. Kroschell stated the main purpose of the project is to address stormwater drainage and that the lowering of the street level and increase in number of storm inlets will allow for good drainage.

The ability of the city to service and maintain the additional number of trees and planting beds is a major concern. Kroschell shared there will be an irrigation system installed for the planting beds from 2nd to 8th Avenues. The system will have pop-up heads for watering and one controller

for all beds. Planting beds should also allow enough depth for the proper amount of mulch, which has been a continuing problem with the Emerson Avenue medians.

As far as money which could be saved with a reduced number of trees, bushes and other plants, Beech Grove would realize 20% of the savings and the state 80%.

Beth Berg is working on the Tree City recertification application and Tim Latimer offered his assistance.

Miller suggested Hannan consider Thornless Hawthorn trees as a replacement for crabapple trees along the drive through Sarah T. Bolton Park. They are small, hardy trees, easy to maintain and attractive to birds, bees and butterflies.

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, December 17, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Berg, Greenscape Commission Secretary