

Greenscape Commission Meeting
Monday, January 19, 2010, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center

Members present: Dave Miller, Brian Clayton, Tim Latimer, Beth Berg, and Lynn Huff. Guest: Billy Huff

Billy Huff attended the meeting to offer his assistance with mapping trees inventoried in city parks. Huff is a student at IUPUI and has access to resources that could provide the commission with large scaled maps of city parks. The commission expressed their gratitude for Huff's interest and assistance. It was decided to include trees in the median of Emerson Avenue in Zone 9. Dave Miller suggested we inventory park trees beginning around the first of March, doing one park at a time as a group and dividing each park into workable areas. All work for the project must be submitted to the DNR by May 17. Miller asked Beth Berg to look into the possibility of getting an extension. Berg asked if the commission should be looking now for a contractor to assess trees deemed to be in poor condition.

Miller asked if any trees would be lost with the work on the parking area at Hartman Field. Berg was not aware of any losses, but will verify that information. Miller also reported that the city has removed a number of street trees in recent weeks. The Streets Department was to keep a list and those trees need to be removed from our inventory. The list is also needed to know how many new trees must be planted this year to replace them. As a reminder to all, those replacements may be anywhere in the city and not necessarily in the location where they were removed.

An Arbor Day Celebration needs to be planned for 2010. Brian Clayton suggested partnering with the local Boy Scout Troops as this year they are celebrating 100 years of Scouting. Everyone agreed this would be a good opportunity for both organizations. Clayton will take the suggestion back to the scouts and a date will be set for a joint event. The city will purchase one tree for Arbor Day. Additional donations or sponsorships are always welcomed. Miller suggested the commission look at purchasing plaques for recognition of donated trees and trees planted in memory of individuals. Some trees currently have one, but this needs to be done for all.

By consensus, Miller will continue as President of the Greenscape Commission, Berg will continue as Secretary, and Tim Latimer will continue to present monthly reports before the City Council. Lynn Huff offered to share that responsibility.

Miller had a discussion with Michael Krosschell (*crow shell*), the Landscape Architect for the Schneider Corporation, regarding the landscape plan for the Main Street Project. A landscape plan has not yet been finalized. Miller will ask Krosschell to attend our next meeting so we can discuss choices for trees and other plantings. Krosschell is also involved with plans for the Greenway trails.

Miller would like for the commission to develop a closer connection with the Parks Board. He suggested a joint clean-up effort to remove brush and undesirable plant growth in the city parks, focusing first on Sarah T. Bolton Park. Residents who have expressed an interest in being a Friend of the Parks could be asked to participate as well. Berg suggested that the Promoter's Club clean-Up Beech Grove Day might be a good date for the activity. Latimer stated that date this year is Saturday, April 21.

Miller brought up the subject of ADA compliance, which is a current project of the city. He suggested the Parks Department look at designating handicapped parking spaces in the smaller parking lot on the south side of Lick Creed and installing a path from that lot to the shelter and playground areas. At present the

pedestrian bridge over the creek is not really wheelchair accessible. A path from the parking area at Hartman Field to the Little League diamonds was also suggested.

There was discussion on a recent issue in LaPorte, Indiana, where a federal judge ruled that the city must improve or replace its crumbling sidewalks because they violate the Americans with Disabilities Act. The city took the position that property owners were responsible for condition of the sidewalks, but the judge disagreed.

The next meeting of the commission will be Tuesday, February 16, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center. The change in day is due to the President's Day Holiday.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Greenscape Commission Secretary