

Greenscape Commission Meeting
March 21, 2011, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room D

Members present: Dave Miller, Tim Latimer, Lynn Huff, Beth Berg. Guests: David Laker and Kevin Cox.

Tim Latimer reported The Promoter's Club Clean-Up Beech Grove Day is Saturday, April 23 beginning at 7:00am. The Community Clean-Up Day in the Parks will follow on the same day at 8:30am. Participants will be asked to meet at South Grove Park for assignments, which could include painting at Hartman Park, picking up limbs, trash and other winter debris, replacing the roof of the Hilltop Restrooms in Sarah Bolton Park, and mulching planting beds. Old clothes are suggested, work gloves and tools will be provided.

Dave Miller discussed plans for this year's Arbor Day Celebration. Miller is still looking for a local nursery that can provide American Beech trees for planting, so the commission will hold off on setting a date until we have a source for a tree(s). Locally grown trees will have a better success rate for survival, and an American Beech, being a native species, is more desirable than a European Beech.

David Laker and Kevin Cox from Johnson Controls were present to discuss their desire to sponsor an environmental project through their company's Blue Sky Involve Program. Their contribution would be \$1000 non-matching grant monies and three guys to work eight hours each. The project is subject to approval and Laker must submit an application and proposal no later than June 1, 2011. The proposal should detail what the project is, where the work will be done, who will be maintaining the project after completion, and its environmental benefits. The Beech Grove Promoter's Club will be a partner in the project and will accept the grant money, which must go to a not-for-profit organization. The project idea discussed involves planting American Beech trees. The location will be determined based on recommendations from Tom Hannan. Latimer and Dave Miller will be working on the details. There was also discussion on making this tree planting the City's 2011 Arbor Day Celebration. Miller would like to get a Proclamation from the City recognizing Johnson Controls and Blue Sky Involve.

Miller reported that Eagle Creek Nursery has American Beech trees for sale. The cost is \$355.50 per tree wholesale, which would be the price for the city. Early fall would be an appropriate time for planting.

Miller spoke with Pam Louks, Indiana Urban Forest Council, and unofficially Beech Grove will be re-certified as a Tree City. Official notification is expected the second week of April, along with news on whether or not we will earn a Tree Growth Award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The commission reviewed and discussed landscape plans for the Roundabout Project at the intersection of 17th Avenue, Albany Street and Churchman Avenues. The following recommendation will be presented to Trent Newport, Crossroads Engineering.

Typical to all locations: As I explained, due to the results of the comprehensive city wide tree inventory, completed in 2010, we are advising no **Acer** or Maple species shall be planted along streets or in parks at this time. The recommended replacement would be **Nyssa sylvatica** (Blackgum - Sourgum - Black Tupelo) a native Indiana tree. Also, given the competitive nature of plant material we are requesting, within this project, that no trees are planted within any shrub or perennial bedding area without reducing the number of bedding plants at the tree planting location.

From Landscape Plan Approach Islands, Page 1 of 8:

17th Avenue - North; Reduce three (3) "Skyline Honeylocust" trees to two (2) and re space.

Albany Street - East; There are six (6) trees proposed. We recommend reducing to four (4), re spacing and staggering the plantings as Honeylocust - Blackgum - Honeylocust - Blackgum.

17th Avenue - South; There are seven (7) trees proposed. We recommend reducing to five (5), eliminating the northerly tree within the planting bed, re spacing and staggering the plantings as Honeylocust - Blackgum - Honeylocust - Blackgum - Honeylocust.

Albany Street - West; Reduce two (2) "Skyline Honeylocust" to one (1) "Skyline Honeylocust. Reduce shrub and perennial plantings at tree location.

Albany Street - West / Churchman Avenue Triangle; Eliminate **Acer** species, replace with Honeylocust or Blackgum. Reduce three (3) trees to one (1).

Churchman Avenue - Northwest; Plant as designed but reduce shrub and perennial plantings at tree location.

From Landscape Plan Central island. Page 7 of 8:

"Winter King" Hawthorn acceptable. A question of reducing the number of these trees from three (3) to one (1) was made but without recommendation.

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, April 18, 6:00pm at the Hornet Park Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Berg, Greenscape Commission Secretary