

Greenscape Commission Meeting
Monday, July 21, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room D

Members present: Dave Miller, Tim Latimer, Brian Clayton, Mike Masterson, and Beth Berg

Beth Berg shared information from her meeting with Mayor Wright regarding a budget request, which will be due by the end of July. There was discussion on amounts to request for specific items. It was decided to include the following items:

- 25 new trees to be planted
- \$1200 for educational materials
- \$12,000 for maintenance of the Emerson Avenue plantings, to include pruning and spraying
- Landscaping for the new city sign to be installed on Emerson Avenue
- Dave Miller will look through his records for invoices to determine an amount for tree removal
- Tim Latimer offered to assist with contacting other cities who recently conducted tree inventories, to get information needed to plan for our inventory and prepare a figure for the budget request

The design for the new city sign, which will replace the one at Kentucky Fried Chicken, was looked at and the commission has been asked to come up ideas for landscaping. Main considerations will be choosing plants that are very low maintenance and that will tie in to the Emerson Avenue design. Grasses were mentioned and dismissed as they can be difficult to control. Mike Masterson offered to contact the mayor for a time line on installing the sign and also to do a sight study to ensure the sign is situated so it does not block a driver's view at the corner.

The current Tree Ordinance (Special Ordinance #8, 2005) was discussed and the only item that needs to be changed is in Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities - adding language for working with/advising the Redevelopment Commission on their projects. Numerous spelling errors were noted, but no determination was made as to whether the commission should ask for them to be corrected.

Lynn Rekeweg, the city's IT person, was unable to attend this meeting to discuss our webpages. Miller suggested we try to meet with him at a time when he is on duty at the fire station. That was agreeable to everyone and Miller will contact Rekeweg to set a date. Miller is also looking at a list of unacceptable trees, which would be included on the website.

Masterson raised the question of who is responsible for keeping trees trimmed to an eight-foot clearance above sidewalks. City trees must be trimmed by the city and while property owners are responsible for their trees, the city can trim them to the property line if they cause an obstruction. It's a widespread problem, and more efficiently attended to on a block by block or street by street basis rather than sending crews out for individual trees.

Brian Clayton brought an invitation from the sisters at St. Paul Hermitage to tour the grounds and study the trees on the property. All their trees are numbered and identified and it would be a good learning experience for all new members. There are a number of interesting specimens, including some Beech

trees. Clayton will follow up with arranging a date and time to visit.

Berg will give the commission report to the City Council at their August 4th meeting.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm for a field trip to inspect a landscape plan on-site and evaluate two street trees.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Greenscape Commission Secretary

July 21, 2008

RE: Autos to Go
3214 S. Emerson Avenue
Beech Grove, IN. 46107
Landscape Plan

Per the request of Cindy Kirchhofer, Beech Grove Redevelopment Commission, I have inspected the above property in regard to a proposed landscape plan as submitted.

It is my professional opinion that the area in question and the property in general does not and will not support the proposed landscape installation.

In the proposed plan, landscape boxes constructed of landscape timbers are too shallow to support plant growth to mature development; Soil will escape from the contained area of landscaping causing an unsightly and dangerous condition for pedestrians; The landscape timber boxes along with the selection of suggested plantings are not compatible with the current landscape pattern of the Emerson Avenue corridor and will require high maintenance.

The installation of soil and plants over an unnatural surface with artificial drainage is not in the best interest of long term plant growth. As this property exists, it is clean, weed free and adapts well with the existing landscape of Emerson Avenue and other adjacent businesses. The Alton Street area is simply too small to sustain any landscaping on this property.

My recommendation: **No Further Landscaping Be Added To This Property.**

David J. Miller, Beech Grove Greenscape Commission
Certified Arborist IN-0320AU

