

Greenscape Commission Meeting
Monday, October 20, 6:00pm
Hornet Park Community Center, Room D

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

Dave Miller reviewed the amendment to the city tree ordinance which put in place staggered terms for commission members. Brian Clayton's term will expire at the end of this year and he expressed interest in continuing to serve on the commission. Miller will relay this to Mayor Wright. Beth Berg will contact Lynn Rekeweg about posting the tree ordinance and the amendment regarding terms of office on our web pages.

On October 8th, Miller, Berg, and Mayor Wright attended the Indiana Urban Forest Council/ Department of Natural Resources annual conference where the City of Beech Grove was honored as the Outstanding Community of the Year, recognizing "our commitment and work toward conserving, protecting, and maintaining our urban forest and urban natural resources." There was discussion on where this award, as well as the Tree City plaque, could best be displayed. Miller and Tim Latimer suggested Room D at the Community Center, where our commission and the Parks Board meet regularly.

Miller reported he spoke with a representative from Davey Resources at the conference about visiting Beech Grove and working up an itemized estimate for maintenance service of trees and landscape plants on Emerson Avenue. Davey Resources is a highly-regarded nationwide company whose prices tend to be higher than others, but consensus of the commission was to invite them and hear their proposal.

Miller thanked Berg and Latimer for their work on the Make Your Trees Count grant application. Grant recipients will be announced on October 30th. Latimer has continued his discussions with Dr. Ingrid Ritchie, Indiana University-Indianapolis, regarding participation of student volunteers with our project. She will be invited to our December meeting to get information needed prior to the beginning of the spring semester.

Miller asked everyone to be thinking of a good location for our 2009 Arbor Day tree planting; someplace in the public eye. Arbor Day will officially be April 24, but we can hold our celebration anytime from April 1st to November 1st.

Our application for recertification as a Tree City is due December 31, along with paperwork documenting our expenditures and activities for this calendar year. Our next meeting will be devoted to working on those documents.

The Arbor Day Foundation has a program called Tree Campus USA, normally a designation available to qualifying universities and colleges. Clayton will share the information with the sisters at the Benedictine Center to see if they might qualify and be interested in participating.

The foundation also offers a Tree City USA Growth Award. Latimer will review the eligibility

requirements and determine if Beech Grove might qualify, or if we are moving in right direction to qualify in the future.

Latimer shared recent conversations with staff at *The Southside Times*, inviting them to attend and report on our meetings. The response was less than desired. *The Spotlight* was discussed as an alternative source for sharing information.

Berg relayed a recent conversation with Tom Hannon regarding four silver maple trees planted in the right-of-way in front of one house in the first block of north 9th Avenue. Besides being undesirable trees in general, their unchecked growth is beginning to obstruct the sidewalk and they are quickly outgrowing their space. Hannon would like to remove them as soon as possible. Reviewing the tree ordinance, enforcement in this matter falls to the Director of the Department of Public Works. Berg will contact Sam Merl and request that he schedule removal of the trees and notify the property owner.

Miller recommended 101 Trees of Indiana as an excellent book members may want to purchase as a resource for their personal knowledge as well an aid with the tree inventory. It is available at Borders for \$19.95.

Latimer will give the commission report for the City Council at their November 3rd meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Berg
Greenscape Commission Secretary