

Minutes of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission Meeting February 7, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman P. Lechner at 7:31 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dave Andrews
Maria Galbo
Laura Gaskin
Gary Lechner
Paul Lechner
Tim Madigan
Mary Ellen Meyering
Randy Rennpage

The following members were excused:

Tim Butler

The following members were absent:

The following were also in attendance:

Kate Colborn, Steven Skorupski, Michael Koester, Council Representative

Motion by Rennpage, seconded by Andrews to approve the agenda for the meeting February 7, 2024 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 1

Motion by Madigan, seconded by Galbo to approve the minutes for the meeting December 6, 2023, passed by the following vote:

Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 1

Treasurer's Report:

Randy Rennpage reported that our balance is -\$56.06. There was no change in the balance since our last meeting.

Old Business:

DPW representatives were invited to attend this meeting but were not available. Andrews will invite them to the March meeting.

The nominated slate of officers was unanimously elected to serve in 2024:

Chair: Paul Lechner

Vice-Chair: Laura Gaskin
Secretary: Mary Ellen Meyering
Treasurer: Randy Rennpage

The 2023 fall planting program will take place in March. 46 homes are scheduled to receive new trees. Galbo and Andrews are available to stake the locations if needed. The Swamp Oaks in the Ghesquire Park “nursery” will be placed throughout Ghesquire Park.

There was much discussion of the future plans for the landscape of the City Hall campus and the future tree planting in the City. Mr. Kowalski of the DPW and the City are not in agreement as far as the direction the City should go, especially as far as the replacement of the diseased groves of trees. This led to discussion of what our tree planting goals should be, especially in light of the denial of our recent grant application. One of the reasons it was denied was the lack of specifics on future plans. We are concerned that the citizens do not express that they want City funds to be spent on increasing the tree canopy. We discussed the potential use of a survey through door hang tags or through the City email blast to determine citizen desires. We will invite Lawrence Sobson to attend a future meeting to assist us in formulating future plans.

Commission candidates Katherine Colborn and Steve Skorupski were introduced and answered our questions. A motion was made by Andrews to recommend that the Mayor appoint them to the Commission. It was seconded by Madigan and passed by the following vote:

Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 1

The City Council approved our request to increase the donation for Memorial Trees to \$500.

New Business:

It was suggested that we have volunteers assist in the bagging of the trees for the Arbor Day program. Andrews will contact a local Girl Scout Troop that may be interested in assisting us.

The Tree City USA application for 2024 has been submitted.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Madigan to request an increase in the Commission budget to \$4000 due to increased expenses. It was seconded by Andrews and passed by the following vote:

Yes: 8 No: 0 Absent: 1

City Council has agreed to provide memorial trees for our recently deceased members. Location suggestions are welcome.

Council Representative Michael Koester provided an update of current city business.

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. moved by Madigan, and seconded by Rennpage, was unanimous.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Meyering Office Held: Secretary Cell: 313 505 2352