

Minutes of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission Meeting June 3, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lechner at 7:02 p.m.

The following members were present:

Kate Colborn
Maria Galbo
Dean Knuth
Paul Lechner
Mary Ellen Meyering
Randy Rennpage
Steve Skorupski

The following members were excused:

The following members were absent

The following were also in attendance:

Michael Koester, Council Representative
Basil Zaviski

Motion by Meyering, seconded by Galbo to approve the agenda for the meeting June 3, 2026 passed by the following vote.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Excused: 0

Motion by Galbo, seconded by Skorupski to approve the minutes for the meeting on May 6, 2026 passed by the following vote.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Excused: 0

Treasurer's Report:

Randy Rennpage reported that there is no change to our accounts.

Old Business:

- A. The poster contest is moving along well. Lechner has the T-shirts to distribute to the winners. The winners will be honored at the June 15 City Council meeting at 7 p.m.. The Tree City USA flag will also be presented at that meeting. Colborn has the commemorative quarters for the winners.

- B. Dean Knuth's appointment has been approved and he has been sworn in as a Commission member. Welcome Dean!

New Business:

- C. The City has approved the fall tree giveaway. There will be 50 trees on a first come, first served basis. They have asked for our input on tree selection. Knuth suggests that we use native species such as Sassafras, Hickory and Slippery Elm. The Eastern Redbud was very popular last year. Knuth and Skorupski have offered to help with planting the trees.
- D. There was some discussion of the Memorial Tree program and its future. We believe that there is a conflict in promoting the program when we have many memorial markers that citizens have previously paid for to memorialize a loved one that are in storage due to the trees having been removed from the City Hall property. Councilman Koester believes that there will not be enough replacement trees planted on the City Hall property to accommodate all the markers. One proposal includes displaying the markers in a collective form, such as a circle around a central tree. We believe that the markers should be paired one for one with trees, and that donors should be contacted to determine their preferences.

Motion made by Meyering, seconded by Galbo to suspend meeting in July and August and meet next on September 2. It passed by the following vote.

Yes: 7 No: 0 Excused: 0

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

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM moved by Rennpage, and seconded by Colborn, was unanimous.

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