

Minutes of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission Meeting September 6, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Gaskin at 7:32 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dave Andrews
Tim Butler
Ted Colborn
Maria Galbo
Laura Gaskin
Gary Lechner
Mary Ellen Meyering

The following members were excused:

Peter Groschner
Paul Lechner

The following members were absent:

Tim Madigan
Randy Rennpage

The following were also in attendance:

Sharon Haines
Margaret Potter
Michael Koester, City Council Representative

Motion by Butler, seconded by Andrews to approve the agenda for the meeting September 6, 2023 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 4

Motion by Andrews, seconded by Galbo to approve the minutes for the meeting June 7, 2023 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 4

Treasurer's Report:

There was no treasurer's report.

Old Business:

The Tree City USA flag was presented to the City by P Lechner and Andrews at the August 3 City Council meeting.

Further discussion of the budget will be delayed until the treasurer is present.

New Business:

The fall tree planting program has been given a \$10,000 budget which will allow 20 trees to be planted. Andrews will place the stakes for the trees. He is also working on a grant from the DNR to allow for additional planting.

Hampton Road will get new trees due to roadwork. The funds for that come from a different budget. Roslyn Road is next for construction and unfortunately the removal of some trees.

Butler moved that we recommend that City Council plant at least 50 trees per year for the next 10 years in addition to any trees being planted through any other infrastructure programs.

Galbo seconded the motion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 4

There was discussion of an Ann Arbor ordinance which requires replacement of any tree removed with four new ones. Galbo will research this and report back.

There was discussion of a tree "nursery" in Ghesquire Park to plant seedlings and nurture them into plantable trees. Discussion was tabled for the time being.

Seedlings for the 2024 Arbor Day program were discussed. Van's nursery has good availability of White Spruce. Andrews moved and Galbo seconded that we purchase the White Spruce tree plugs.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 4

G. Lechner suggested that we order a variety of trees in the future to promote biodiversity. Perhaps we could give different trees at various schools. There was also discussion of ordering earlier to be able to purchase a deciduous tree.

Gaskin agreed to canvass members to assess interest in officer positions for next year. Butler and Galbo plan to continue with the Commission. P Lechner and Rennpage were absent. Sadly, our long time member Peter Groschner passed away on September 8, 2023. He will be particularly remembered by all of us for his thoughtful and moving reading of the Dedicatory Prayer at the annual Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony.

Discussion of next year's responsibilities was tabled until next month

Members would like to review the Commission Mission statement and update it if necessary. Members wish to discuss conducting a community survey at a future meeting.

Public comment: Margaret Potter, a GPW resident inquired whether the city will remove a dying tree in her property easement, even though they did not plant it. Andrews agreed to check on that and to contact Lawrence Sobson for advice on what to replace the tree with.

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

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. moved by Butler, and seconded by Andrews, was unanimous.

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