

Minutes of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission Meeting October 4, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman P. Lechner at 7:33 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

The following members were excused:

Tim Butler
Randy Rennpage

The following members were absent:

The following were also in attendance:

Mike Martin
Michael Koester, City Council Representative

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Ted Colborn and Peter Groschner our members who passed away since our last meeting. They will be missed.

Motion by Madigan, seconded by Andrews to approve the agenda for the meeting October 4, 2023 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 2

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

Yes: 7 No: 0 Absent: 2

Treasurer's Report:

Randy Rennpage reported that our balance is \$1400. The Memorial Tree fund balance is almost \$25,000. There is no clarity about the city's plans to replace dead or dying memorial trees.

Old Business:

The treasurer's report led to a lengthy discussion of the dilemma about how to handle the Memorial Tree replacements. Andrews stated that the city is short staffed and not able to write requests for grant money to cover some of the costs of the replacements, which will be substantial especially for the groves in front of City Hall which are largely dead or dying. The consensus of the group is that requesting a grant is very important and would greatly benefit the City. The Michigan DNR has a current grant program for Urban and Community Forestry Program Grants with an application deadline of Friday October 13, 2023, a tight deadline. It was agreed that a subcommittee would meet on Tuesday October 10, 2023 to determine the feasibility of putting such a request together and to write the request if it is decided that it is feasible. Councilman Koester will work with the City to determine whether they will support such an application.

P. Lechner will reserve the Community Room for next year's Memorial Tree Dedication Ceremony, rather than the Council Chambers.

Gaskin reported that all current officers are willing to continue in their current positions. Nominations of officers and a vote on the slate to recommend to the City will be conducted at the November meeting.

Andrews reported that 25 trees will be planted at homes that requested during the fall tree planting program. The DPW will place the stakes.

New Business:

There are now two vacancies on the Commission. All members are encouraged to recommend potential new members.

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

Motion to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. moved by Madigan, and seconded by Andrews, was unanimous.

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