

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2017
Page 1 of 4

Members Present:

Audrey Kessler, Chairman
John BelFiore
Nadine Gomez
Andrew Scholl
Karasz Zoltan

Staff Present:

Brad McKay, Facilities Manager/Arborist
Rebecca Swauger, Account Clerk

I. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Chair Kessler, at 5:00PM

II. Roll Call

Audrey Kessler, John BelFiore, Nadine Gomez, Andrew Scholl were present.
Mr. Zoltan arrived at 5:13.
Staff members Brad McKay and Rebecca Swauger were also present.

III. Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF January 23, 2017.
Motion made by Ms. Kessler, seconded by Ms. Gomez, and passed.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay said that the trees that have been purchased for Arbor Day will be picked up by Central Maintenance Staff on April 19, 2017 from a small town in Pennsylvania that is about a 2 ½ hour drive from Kent. He stated that shipping is expensive and hard to predict and would cost approximately \$800 to \$1000.

Mr. McKay also discussed the Tree City Award that will be presented in Aurora on May 10th. The deadline to attend is April 21st, please email him if you plan to attend. Also, Mr. McKay has been checking vacant sites for planting, currently there are 6998 sites available, however, he has only found 47 in the software. He also stated that the previous Arborist, Mr. Shanley recommended some sites not to plant. At this time, he has not ordered any trees for planting, but is interested in experimenting with some different species that the city does not currently have.

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2017

Page 2 of 4

Mr. BelFiore asked how many we are allowed to plant.

Mr. McKay stated that we currently can purchase up to \$10,000 worth of trees. He also stated that he prefers to purchase smaller trees as opposed to larger ones because within a 5-7 year range they would be the same size as if larger ones were planted. In addition to that, the City currently has a yearly contract with Davey Tree that covers pruning, maintenance, removal – the overall health of trees. He also noted that trimming around wires was up to the utility companies and the city does not have a say in this.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Kessler made mention of the Arbor Day Tree Give Away to take place at the Who's Your Mama Festival.

Ms. Gomez asked what the hours of the festival were, it was determined 11:00am to 4:00 pm.

Mr. McKay suggested they arrive when the festival starts until the trees are gone. The tree giveaway should be gauged on the amount of people.

Ms. Gomez brought up having some type of information on the table at the festival to hand out.

Ms. Kessler suggested making some type of brochure to hand out regarding tree care.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Kessler brought up the direction of the commission.

Ms. Gomez stated that Sheri sent some goals, ordinances and duties of the commission, she did not have it with her to review details.

Ms. Kessler questioned the plans for in front of the campus regarding the trees.

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2017
Page 3 of 4

Mr. BelFiore questioned whether these trees are in the right of way or not.

Mr. McKay said they are not according to the plans.

Ms. Gomez feels that saving these trees which are easily 24" in diameter or larger, is the responsibility of the commission. She also stated these are straight, beautiful trees that should not be cut down.

Mr. BelFiore suggested going to the Planning Commission to see what the plans are. He asked if this is the commissions job to tell the Planning Commission they need to save the trees, and ask if they are they able to alter the plans.

Mr. McKay said he can check with Community Development, he did see the plans, the trees are not on there.

Ms. Gomez said the citizens are expecting the commission to protect the trees.

Mr. McKay said they do not have any power on private property.

Mr. Zoltan, as a Shade Tree Commission Member, would like to know the steps to follow to make changes for private property, and is it possible.

Ms. Gomez suggested creating an informational pamphlet with a map inside so That people can see the trees in town and learn about them and care for them.

Ms. Kessler said she is not sure people know what the commission does.

Mr. McKay suggested they do a survey at the Who's Your Mama Festival.

Mr. BelFiore suggested an article in the Tree City Bulletin regarding the role of the commission, what is being done to protect the trees and general education on the trees.

Mr. Zoltan said a bulletin on the website stating the number of trees saved by the commission on a yearly basis would be a good idea. We could also add what the commission does on here.

Ms. Gomez said there is currently no area on the website for the commission. If

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2017
Page 4 of 4

Ms. Gomez said there is currently no area on the website for the commission. If the website is updated, space should be requested for the commission.

Mr. McKay said we should check other communities/commissions and see what their laws are.

Ms. Kessler asked to schedule a quarterly meeting and said if they need to meet in between for a certain issue they could set up via email.

Mr. McKay said to be a Tree City you have to meet quarterly, however you can have informal exchange of emails or basic information in between.

The Commission members scheduled their next meeting for June 26, 2017 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business before the commission, Ms. Kessler adjourned the Meeting at 5:55pm.