

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2017
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Members Present:

Audrey Kessler, Chairman
John Belfiore
Nadine Gomez
Andrew Scholl

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

Karaszi Zoltan

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Kessler, at 5:00pm

II. Roll Call

Audrey Kessler, John Belfiore, Nadine Gomez were present.

Mr. Scholl arrived at 5:11pm.

Mr. Zoltan requested to be excused prior to the meeting.

Staff members Brad McKay and Rebecca Swauger were also present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Both March 27 and August 21 minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay stated that we have become consumed with brush and leaf collection. He also stated that the spike in warm weather is causing shedding of the leaves. Mr. McKay informed everyone that the yard transfer site is being temporarily shut down to allow for tub grinding. And he also discussed the need for specific hours and possible security at the site.

Mr. McKay said that Davey Tree and one city crew are currently trimming trees around town.

V. Old Business

Nothing to discuss.

VII. New Business

Mr. McKay said he is trying to organize a list of financial priorities with regards to residential/commercial development with the focus being on planting new trees. He also stated that we need to be good at maintaining what we already have before we add new areas.

Mr. McKay also stated that we need to update the software, as it is only 85% accurate And is not fully efficient. This software tracks the main information regarding the trees However, it should be updating information such as pruning, site visits and construction Projects.

Ms. Gomez asked if residents could plant their own trees.

Mr. McKay said that when residents have an open site and they call inquiring about planting a tree, that we will check it out. These plantings also require us to amp up maintenance.

Mr. McKay said that we may be able to pitch the tree software as a benefit to the public. Residents would be able to log in and check on existing and future plantings around the City.

Ms. Gomez said that the schools could also use the software.

Mr. Scholl asked if we would be setting up the site.

Mr. McKay said it is already there, we need to know more about it.

Mr. Scholl inquired about community information on the site, is it only a listing?

Mr. McKay said the software is not capable of holding all of the information. He also Stated that he is currently working with Davey on plantings.

Mr. Scholl updated everyone on the previously discussed tree app. He has checked With KSU and apparently the idea has faded. Is this something that could possibly turn into a student internship to build a program?

The commission members confirmed the next meeting on December 4, 2017 at 5:00pm.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business before the commission, Ms. Kessler adjourned the meeting At 5:51pm.