

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2018
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Members Present:

Audrey Kessler
John Belfiore
Andrew Roland
Peter Kierstead

Staff Present:

Brad McKay, Facilities Mgr. /Arborist
Rebecca Swauger, Account Clerk

Absent:

Andrew Scholl

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:00 by Audrey Kessler

II. Roll Call

Audrey Kessler, John Belfiore were present, as well as new members, Andrew Roland and Peter Kierstead. Staff members Brad McKay and Rebecca Swauger were also present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Audrey Kessler made a motion to approve the previous minutes, second motion made by John Belfiore.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay stated that we have been working on removing dead trees, he also explained that this is a good time for planting as trees have a higher survival rate.

V. Old Business

Mr. McKay said that the 1.2 acre city owned property at the end of Ivan Drive will be planted with trees. The planting will be done by Davey Tree and paid for through the tree budget. This planting will cut down on resident complaints regarding trash, noise, headlights, etc. and also eliminate the need for mowing in the area. Planting will also help to create a sight and sound border.

Mr. McKay updated on the tree software which is currently being updated by Davey Tree, this is expected to take about a year. The relationship between Kent and Davey is good, we are allowing them to use our information for their demos, this also grants us a discount. Once the update is complete and we are able to view it, we will be able to see what species are in each area and track maintenance.

VII. New Business

Mr. McKay said that there is currently no hard set goals for the commission and that with new Members comes new ideas. He also talked about being able to change tree species under the Urban Forestry Management Plan, this will allow us to experiment. We will be trying some Gingko Trees in the downtown area, as they grow quickly. Also, there will be rubber mats replacing the Steel grates that are currently around the downtown trees.

Mr. Kierstead requested prior meeting minutes and Mr. McKay said he could email them. The Members decided the next meeting would be October 15 or 16.

VIII. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Ms. Kessler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:09pm, the Motion was seconded by Mr. Kierstead.