

Manchester Tree Advisory Board Minutes

April 5, 2022

5:30PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Call to Order – Chairman Stemmler @ 5:30PM

In attendance – *Staff Liaison Dave Pracht (Assistant Director of Public Works), Mayor Mike Clement, Board Chairman Mike Stemmler, Aldermanic Liaison John Dodge, Board Member Nancy Miller, Board Member Karen Zelle, Board Member Jane Sharp, Alderman Megan Huether, Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Hardesty, and Urban Forestry Consultant Mark Halpin*

Approve Minutes from January 4, 2022 Tree Advisory Board Meeting – *Approved*

Old Business - *None*

New Business

- New Tree Board Member – *Mark Halpin*

New board member and Forestry Consultant Mark Halpin introduced himself. Mark previously served as Urban Forester for the City of Brentwood, horticulturist and arborist for Forest Park Forever, and Forestry Manager at Forest ReLeaf of Missouri. He will be the City of Manchester's dedicated urban forestry consultant.

- New Tree Board Member - *Alderman John Dodge*

John Dodge is in his third month serving as the Ward 1 Alderman, and is otherwise retired.

- Tree City USA and Growth Award Updates – *David Pracht*

The Tree City designation was received and the Growth Award received for the second year in a row. Manchester is one of only 2 municipalities in Missouri to receive this award. Errol Tate, David Pracht and Alderwoman Marilyn Ottenad attended the awards ceremony last Friday, April 1st. New stickers will be up soon on signs throughout the city and an announcement will be included in the next Manchester Message newsletter.

- Arbor Day 2022 updates - *Stephanie Hardesty*

Arbor Day will be April 23rd, the same day as Maker's Mart. Tree pickup will begin at 10am. Unlike last year when pickup was done as a drive-up event it will now be a "park and walk to" event. Kids activities will be included. Tree seedlings will be in next week. A new planting will be done by the playground, where an ash tree was removed - a flowering cherry was selected. Jane Sharp emphasized that we must confirm which type of cherry is being planted so it will match existing trees. Planting time was discussed and 9:30 settled on to not conflict with seedling giveaway. Mayor Clement asked if the city pays for these seedlings and Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Hardesty confirmed that it does not.

- Tree Walk Update Margaret Stoecker Park on April 21st - *Stephanie Hardesty*

Stephanie confirmed with Mark Halpin that he will be leading the walk. Only one person is signed up. Discussion on whether to move the walk ensued - it was agreed upon that the tree walk should be promoted at Arbor Day and in the Manchester Message (issue due May 1st) and postponed until mid-May when better weather and promotion will mean better attendance.

- 2021-2022 TRIM Grant update (Ash Tree Removal in Parks) – *Mark Halpin*

Mark confirmed that the trees have been marked and will be removed this month. Parks staff will remove smaller trees and Davey will remove larger ones. Once MDC inspects the work Manchester will receive compensation. New ideas for 2022 grants were discussed and it was suggested that all members of the Tree Board should consider ideas. Mark Halpin discussed the new TRIM cycle in which money can be awarded sooner. Pear tree removals on La Bonne Parkway were discussed as a possible option, as was updating the inventory.

- Right-of-Way Ash Tree Removal Updates – *David Pracht*

John Plowman of Code Enforcement sent out letters informing people that they need to remove ash trees in the Right-of-Way and received ~500 responses. A new notification will be sent out in May informing people that they are in violation of the code if their trees are hazardous or infested. Mayor Clement inquired if the ash trees in the city's inventory have been updated in relation to removal, which has not occurred. David Pracht was asked to schedule a future conversation to determine who will update ash removals in the future. Chairman Stemmler inquired about ROW trimming, which has been completed. Pracht added that tree companies have expressed little interest in doing this work and that it will continue to be done by staff.

- Other Topics of Discussion –

Mayor Clement discussed possibly doing shorter but more frequent meetings prior to events such as Arbor Day, as needed. Discussion about moving the meeting time to 5pm ensued; Chairman Stemmler would have trouble making it, 5:30 will remain meeting time.

Next Meeting is July 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Adjournment

Board adjourned at 6:20pm