



Tree Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 3, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 882 5646 9635 **Passcode:** 127034

Join Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88256469635?pwd=RTM0VER4eHhBL21PRjQyT0gyblB3dz09>

Call to Order – Chairman Stemmler 6:03 PM

In attendance: David Pracht, Michael Stemmler, Jane Sharp, Matthew Broderick, John Dodge, Karen Zelle, Nancy Miller, Stephanie Hardesty

Approve Minutes from July 11, 2023, Tree Advisory Board Meeting – Approved

1. **2022-2023 Missouri Department of Conservation Grant Application - La Bonne Pkwy Bradford Pears Removal & Replacement Update - Mark Halpin & Dave Pracht**

The La Bonne Parkway Street Replacement Project is currently out to bid. This is partly funded by a federal grant which adds extra steps and time. The Trustees of Country Lane Woods have decided not to replant until after completion of the street work in Fall of 2024. Mark and David are working to organize purchase and planting of the trees, some of which ('Emerald City' Tulip poplar) will be contract grown by Forest ReLeaf.

2. **2023-2024 Missouri Department of Conservation Grant Application – Mark Halpin & Parks Staff**

Mark Halpin took the lead on applying for the grant for woodland restoration in Schroeder Park. Grants have been alternating annually between the Parks Department and Public Works Department, last year being a Public Works project. The grant will cover invasive species removal, felling of hazardous trees, and other woodland restoration work. Next step is getting price quotes for work.

3. **Fall Limb Chipping - Dave Pracht**

Free City limb chipping began Monday and went partly into Tuesday, finishing Tuesday morning. Free limb chipping will continue for the next two Monday's. The following dates are when the free limb chipping program takes place: Ward 1: Oct. 2nd, Ward 2: Oct. 9th, Ward 3: Oct. 16th.

4. New Tree City USA & Growth Award Application – Mark Halpin

No work has been started, Mark will begin the application process soon. Applications are due by the end of the year.

5. Honeysuckle Hack on November 4th – Parks Staff

Parks hosted a Tree Walk last week in Stoeker Park, led by Mark Halpin. Parks had 140 volunteers for Clean Stream in September. Arbor Day 2024 will be April 20th. Seedlings have been ordered. Rebecca Pate is handling the Honeysuckle Hack, 8:30-10:30 on November 4th. There will possibly be a change in chemical used for stump treatment. (Dave asks about the change, Stephanie is not entirely sure. Matthew Broderick mentions Tordon, which was used in the past, is more toxic and not necessary for Honeysuckle, 20% glyphosate is equally effective and safer.) Kat will be on maternity leave after mid-November so if we need to know anything for the Tree City App, ask sooner than later.

6. Proposed 2024 Tree Board Meeting Dates – Dave Pracht & Chairman Stemmler

*The following are the proposed dates in 2024: Tuesday Jan 9th, Apr 2nd, July 9th, Oct. 1st at 6pm.
- Approved.*

7. Other Topics

Aldermen John Dodge mentions that Saturday the City will be hosting a document shredding at Schroeder, 9-11am. Dave Pracht mentions that food donations to Circle of Concern are also being accepted at the event, volunteers and some staff will be there. Proof of residency is required for most people, however residents living in the possible annexation area have been invited to attend also.

John Dodge reminds everyone that election day is Nov 7. Chairman Stemmler asks if there is any indication of how the vote may go, Alderman Dodge says it is unclear, but that annexation offers better services at a lower cost. He was disappointed at the open houses' low turnout but says that the people who came were very interested and inquisitive. David Pracht mentions the online survey that went out which was split, but not many replies were received so the results are inconclusive.

David Pracht mentions that the City offers a variety of sustainability programming such as their e-cycling events, held on the 3rd Saturday of odd numbered months. The City of Manchester recently won an award that David accepted last week, from the Missouri Recycling Association Conference. This event has been partly funded by a grant from St. Louis County Health since 2019, and employees there nominated Manchester for the award. Bob Ruck also attended awards the awards ceremony.

Chairman Stemmler asks about leaf collection and if this is something the City could possibly perform? The leaves could possibly be recycled. David Pracht mentions that other cities do leaf vacuuming, and it is expensive, costing 1-2 million a year. Mark Halpin mentions that U-City and Richmond Heights used to recycle collected leaves and make compost and leaf mulch, but there were complications with EPA regulations and the program was discontinued. Chairman Stemmler adds that his subdivision spent \$5K on it last year. Mark Halpin says he'll ask around about grant opportunities that could possibly help fund such a program.

Adjournment 6:35 PM