

**CITY OF AURORA - Draft
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, February 16, 2007**

The Aurora Tree Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2007 in the Council Chambers of Aurora City Hall. Chairman Dr. Tomko called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Deborah Davis
Meg Hudson
Kim Pease
Rob Swaney – Vice Chairman
James Tomko – Chairman

Absent Louise Bruck
Robert Galaska

Also Present: Courtney Schumm –City Arborist
Madeleine Marazzi –Recording Secretary

Chairman/Vice Chairman Election for 2007:

The floor was open for nominations for Chairman:

MOTION: Jim Tomko was nominated to be Chairman
of the Tree Commission.

Meg Hudson motion: Mrs. Pease seconded and the nomination was closed and passed with a roll call vote: Yeas: Meg Hudson, Kim Pease, Deborah Davis, Rob Swaney, Jim Tomko.
Nays: None

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice Chairman:

MOTION: Rob Swaney was nominated to be Vice Chairman
of the Tree Commission.

Kim Pease nominated: Meg Hudson seconded and the nomination was closed and passed with a roll call vote: Yeas: Meg Hudson, Kim Pease, Deborah Davis, Rob Swaney, Jim Tomko.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Swaney moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2006 minutes. Kim Pease seconded and the motion was passed 5 – 0 with a voice vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ARBORIST REPORT REVIEW/QUESTIONS: Miss Schumm reviewed her report which included the following: Miss Schumm stated the tree budget has been increased in 2007 by \$5,775.00 making the total budget \$35,775.00. Miss Schumm reviewed the breakdown of how the budget would be spent.

Miss Schumm stated she would like to focus on the following areas for spring planting: Surfside Circle, Four Seasons (North and South Park Drives), and State Rt.43 (planter boxes). There are currently eleven tree requests for the Memorial Tree Garden this spring. Space is limited and new areas are being investigated for planting.

Miss Schumm stated Mr. Fellenstein (Parks Coordinator) is updating our Tree Keeper program which will be helpful with our reports and needs.

OLD BUSINESS:

a: Landmark Tree Program: Mr. Swaney stated the last outing was cancelled and a new date was set for February 24 and the ash tree in the cemetery will be checked.

b: Tree Commission Ordinance/Tabled.

c: Landscape Award Update: Mrs. Hudson stated she will be checking with the Chamber of Commerce to see if the awards banquet might be cancelled. If so, the commission might want to consider alternatives for presentations of their awards.

d: Arbor Day Report: Mrs. Pease stated she had received a few entries for the poster contest. Mrs. Pease stated she will be meeting with Mr. Pollack the principal of Leighton Elementary School to include the poster and poetry contest as part of the curriculum for 2008, which should help with participation. Mrs. Pease also stated she would like to include a craft from reclaimed wood as part of the Arbor Day Ceremony.

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e: Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan: Miss Schumm stated she attended an Emerald Ash Borer Forum in January. Speakers included Dr. Dan Herms, entomologist with OARDC (“Emerald Ash Borer in Ohio”), and Beth Buchanan of Davey Resource Group (“Innovative EAB Management Options”). Representatives from several insecticide companies were also

in attendance to provide information about treatment options: Miss Schumm discussed several options and information she acquired from the forum.

Miss Schumm stated the city has been approached by ODA (Ohio Department of Agriculture) to have Aurora be part of their program to use some trees as detection trees for the EAB. This will be part of the Portage County program. The process will include to girdle a 4 to 8” inch tree in diameter which means a section of the bark of the selected trees will be removed with the hope to lure the insect to the tree. Later in the year the tree will be removed, the bark will be stripped and inspected for larval galleries etc., which help them know if the insect is active. This at the moment is the best available tool for detection of EAB.

Discussion was held on forming a task force to help educate the citizens of Aurora on the Emerald Ash Borer, impact and products to possibly use as a deterrent for the problem. Louise Bruck volunteered to head the task force. Kim Pease, Rob Swaney will be helping.

NEW BUSINESS:

a: Tree City USA: Miss Schumm stated the Aurora’s Tree City USA application was completed in December 2006, and sent to Alan Siewert (Regional Forestry Representative with ODNR for review. Aurora was granted status for the 15th year, because the following criteria have been met:

- Standard 1: A Tree Board or Department
- Standard 2: A Community Tree Ordinance
- Standard 3: A Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 Per Capita.
- Standard 4: An Arbor Day observance and Proclamation.

Miss Schumm passed out an application that she will be filling to be included in the growth award for the Tree City USA next year as part of being a Tree City USA award winner.

Miss Schumm stated the Tree City USA award ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 17th at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium for the Commission to attend.

b: Tree Website: Miss Schumm stated the website was up and running with information and forms available to the public. It contains the annual tree action plan, street and park tree planting activities, street and park tree maintenance activities, street and park tree inventory and database management, the tree commission, the tree ordinance. It also contains seasonal activities and information on the Emerald Ash Borer. The web site also includes useful forms and documents such as landmark-tree registry dedication form, landscape-award form, memorial tree dedication form and public tree removal request form. Miss Schumm stated the web site also includes useful links to several informative sites.

c: Landscape Plans: None at this time.

d: Winter Tree Removal/Pruning: Miss Schumm stated this time of year she likes to get the trees contracted for removal in the winter months due to more economical pricing. Miss Schumm was in the process of receiving updated quotes for tree removals along Crackle and Parker Roads.

Miss Schumm stated the Parks staff will start pruning street trees throughout Aurora on a three-year cycle. The focus is currently on “training pruning” trees in the Lakes of Aurora and Chatham Estates during the winter months.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Miss Schumm stated Harold Hartman on Townline road will be tapping his maple trees and asked if the commission was interested in checking the procedure out in making maple sugar. This would be helpful in keeping the process ongoing when the property is turned over to the city.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Mrs. Hudson seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Dr. James Tomko - Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary