

**CITY OF AURORA
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, May 15, 2007**

The Aurora Tree Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 in the Walker Building conference room. Chairman Dr. Tomko called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Louise Bruck
Robert Galaska
Kim Pease
Rob Swaney – Vice Chairman
James Tomko – Chairman

Absent Deborah Davis
Meg Hudson

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Tomko stated on page of the March 20, 2007 minutes 4th paragraph it states that Louis Bruck instead of Deborah Davis volunteered to head the task Emerald Ash Borer Task Force.

Rob Swaney moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2007 minutes. Mr. Swaney seconded and the motion was passed 5 – 0 with a voice vote correction.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

a.Landmark Tree program: Mr. Swaney stated the sub committee had not gone out this month. Dr. Tomko stated there are three trees to be reviewed at the next outing. Miss Schumm stated there are forms on the web site for anyone who wishes to nominate a landmark tree along with the guidelines of what constitutes a landmark tree.

b.Tree Commission Ordinance: Tabled:

c. Arbor Day Review: Mrs. Pease stated a presentation was held with demonstration on erosion and an interactive display about the benefits of trees. The program was very well received. Mrs. Pease stated the poetry contest was also very successful. She received quite a few entries from the poetry contest, and the Mayor read the winner's poems at the ceremony.

Mrs. Pease stated she had submitted her request to the schools for the poster and poetry contest to be included in the curriculum for next year. Ideas were discussed for next year including expanding activities to the general public.

Everyone thanked Mrs. Pease for the hard work she had done to make this event successful.

d. Emerald Ash Borer Program Update: Miss Schumm stated there was a program held at the Moebius Nature Center on Saturday, April 21 to make the public more aware of the Emerald Ash Borer. On the web site will be a power point presentation along with a map of all the ash trees in the cities right of way, and what preventative measures the public can do to protect their trees.

ARBORIST REPORT REVIEW/QUESTIONS: Miss Schumm reviewed her report, which included most of the new business. Miss Schumm stated for new trees planted a mycorrhizal product was dispersed into the dig hole prior to planting to help root growth. All trees were mulched and several are being watered with gator bags. New tree locations have also been entered into the City's TreeKeeper software program.

Miss Schumm stated a representative from the Davey Institute in Kent asked us to participate in a project to measure the effectiveness of Arbor Green fertilize on new tree planting. Davey Tree supplied the fertilizer product, and the powder form was applied to 10 trees. An additional 10 trees will be injected with a liquid fertilizer, and 10 trees will be part of a control group.

Miss Schumm stated various trees, shrubs and annuals will be planted this month as part of a beautification project at the Brown-Kiedel Service Center.

Miss Schumm stated she would be meeting with James Kraus (Parks and Recreation Director), Councilman Vaca, and Dennis Altman (Grounds and Properties Coordinator) on the planter boxes to be installed in the Geauga Lake Area along RT.43.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Spring Tree Planting: Miss Schumm reviewed the spring planting schedule which included new tree plantings in Aurora Shores, Lakes of Aurora, Woodview Estates and Wellington subdivisions.

b. Memorial Tree Garden: Miss Schumm stated this has been a record year for the garden with 18 requests, and two replacements. The trees are starting to be planted in an area across the bridge and pockets here and there by the direction of the Parks and Recreation Director. Aurora City Center by the Kiwanis Moore Park will be completely restructured including paths and some of the trees might be planted there in the future. Miss Schumm stated letters describing the trees and location maps were mailed to donors.

c. Audubon Tree Planting: Miss Schumm stated there were 100 saplings donated by the Audubon Society. These will be planted at the Margaret Harmon Farm, and the Moebius Nature Center area. They are intended to be the beginning of city nursery stock that will be transplanted later.

d. EAB Awareness Week: Miss Schumm stated the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be having an Emerald Ash Borer Awareness week and she had received all the materials. After discussion the EAB Task force will be meeting to plan on when this will be done in Aurora and to focus on the high traffic areas.

e. Arbor Day Citizen of the Year: Dr. Tomko asked the Commission if they had nominations. Discussion was held on qualifications and qualities that are required, and it was decided that Mr. George Horvat's nomination stood out over others. His dedication to tree preservation, experience on Tree Commission, and the fact that he was instrumental in getting an Arborist in the city made him the best candidate. He will be presented with a plaque at the May 29th Council Meeting.

MOTION: The Tree Commission recommended Mr. George Horvat for the Arbor Day Citizen of the Year 2007.

Mr. Galaska moved: Mrs. Pease seconded and the motion passed 6-0 with a voice vote.

f. Tree Removals: The list of removals is being worked on and will be reported on at next month's meeting.

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MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Galaska stated that he wanted to be assured that the large maple tree at Kiwanis-Moore Park would be preserved despite impending construction at the site.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Mr. Swaney seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Dr. James Tomko - Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary