

**CITY OF AURORA
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 21, 2007**

The Aurora Tree Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at City Hall Council Chambers, for the purpose of holding a regular meeting. Chairman Dr. Tomko called the meeting to order at 7:20 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Pease moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2007 minutes. Mr. Swaney seconded and the motion was passed 4 – 0 with a voice vote with 1 abstain (Meg Hudson)

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Ms. Conti, 234 S. Chillicothe, passed out a packet of information to inform the Commission of the flooding that happens on her property. She stated that her home and lot have been flooded three times in the past fifteen years. Ms. Conti felt The City Park was dramatically impacting her lot. She has ¼ acre lot with seven openings that the city has installed for rainwater to be dispersed into the ground. Her property is the lowest point between Pioneer Trail, Aurora Hudson Road, and the school access road. These areas all drain through her property.

The City Park was conceptionally accepted by Council. Prior to construction, each phase of the conceptual drawing must go through different committee processes. Ms. Conti wanted to make the Tree Commission aware of the natural buffer that exists between her property and the proposed City Park, and urged that they, with the help of the Arborist, work with Planning Commission to keep it in tact throughout future development of the park.

A retention/detention basin is also proposed on the conceptual plan, and Ms. Conti has suggested that it be built in a different location. The current proposed location will affect the buffer of trees which are on the property line.

Ms. Conti stated her concern that a large tree was removed when field #5 was enhanced. Ms. Schumm stated she was not aware of any trees being taken down, and that she reviews the site plan phase by phase. A site plan was not presented for field #5 because it was not new construction. Ms. Conti was also concerned about the future batting cage which would affect some of the trees. She asked the Tree Commission to be aware of the possible destruction of trees and the tree line by her property.

Dr. Tomko stated the Tree Commissions job is to preserve trees, and if construction was going on it should of come through the Commission and was concerned as to why the Commission was out of the loop. Miss Schumm stated once she receives a site plan she reviews the plan which must show existing trees and note those that are slated for removal. The City Ordinance states trees on the site plan shall be preserved, unless they interfere directly with construction such as road right-of-way, driveways or utilities. Miss Schumm stated once she receives the site plans and reviews them, she will bring them to Tree Commission for further review. She stated she will be talking to Mr. Kraus about The City Park progression.

OLD BUSINESS:

a.Landmark Tree program: Mr. Swaney stated the sub-committee had not gone out this month. After discussion the sub-committee decided to go out on September 15, at 9am.

b. Landscape Awards Program Update: Mrs. Hudson stated at the planning meeting for the Chamber of Commerce it was decided not to have the individual organizations come and give out the awards this year. The awards dinner will be in December at the Holiday party. The Commission needs to have the award receivers picked out by October in order for the Plaques to be completed.

c.Tree Commission Ordinance: Tabled.

d. Emerald Ash Borer Program Update: Miss Schumm stated another EAB infestation was found in Cuyahoga County, but that there has not been a positive find in Portage or Summit Counties as of yet. Miss Schumm passed out the updated map of states infested, detection tree areas & updated quarantine maps that the Ohio Department of Agriculture is keeping an eye on.

Currently we have 584 ash trees along the streets and 24 landscape trees in the City Parks. This does not include the huge tracks of land that are on properties and preserves that are loaded with ash trees. Miss Schumm stated the majority of street trees are along Shawnee Trail, Harmon Rd, and Chatham and Chelmsford Drives. Six ash trees are planted in the Memorial Tree Garden. Miss Schumm has plans to treat approximately 80 trees in these areas in the spring of 2008. The insecticidal material Xytect will be used, and is estimated to cost \$1,500, or approximately one dollar/caliper inch. This will be done on an annual basis until they find possibly a cure.

Miss Schumm stated she would like the Commission to decide if it was worth spending money on treating the smaller trees versus removing and replanting young ash trees with non-ash species. She also has concern over whether it's too cost-prohibitive to treat older trees that may not translocate the product due to their condition.

ARBORIST REPORT REVIEW/QUESTIONS: Miss Schumm included most of her report under "new business". Miss Schumm stated there is approximately 60% remaining in the 2007 budget and will be meeting with the Parks and Recreation Director in September to discuss the 2008 budget. She is compiling a list of trees that need to be removed in the city, and will put the list out to bid in September. The large trees removals will be contracted in October. Miss Schumm stated there have been more requests for Memorial Trees this year than in previous years, and she will ask for more money in the 2008 Memorial Tree Garden line-item budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.Tree Removals: Miss Schumm reviewed the small street tree removals and stated over 60 dead/dying trees and stumps will be removed by the parks Crew the week of August 27th. These trees will be replaced in the spring of 2008, with the exception of the trees at the Hartman Farm and Barrington Blvd., which will be replaced this fall. Miss Schumm stated the large dead and dying trees throughout the City are being marked for removal. The focus of the removal program will be in the Northeast Quadrant of the City (Crackel, Parker Roads) and will also include trees at the Police Dept., along Mennonite Rd., Pioneer Trail, Bartlett Rd., Harmon Rd., Shawnee Trail and Chillicothe Roads.

b.Fall Tree Planting Schedule: 80 Trees will be planted this fall by the Parks Department to include Campus Drive (from a separate budget), Hampton Glen, The Reserves of Aurora, Barrington Blvd., Woodview Estates, Hartman Farm, and Memorial Tree Garden (MTG). Miss Schumm stated she will be tagging trees at the Davey Tree Farm in Wooster the following week. Planting is scheduled for the beginning of October.

c. Memorial Tree Garden update: Miss Schumm stated 11 new requests for fall planting was received but 3 are “spring only” choices so a total of 8 will be planted this fall. Miss Schumm stated the grove is almost full and future planting will be done along the path at Sunny Lake. This will continue for the next few seasons, and future locations may include the City Center Park, Chesnes Property, and areas at the Aurora Wetlands trail system.

d. Barrington Boulevard: Miss Schumm stated that as of now the City is responsible for the maintenance and care of trees along the median of Barrington Blvd, and not be responsible for the trees along the street. She will be meeting with the landscape manager of Barrington to discuss the issues of removal of the Norway maples, possible removal of the ash trees and removing all the excess mulch off the trees, and beginning a pruning schedule. The three dead trees along the median will be removed and replaced this fall.

e. Sr. 82 Water Main Project: Miss Schumm stated she was asked to look at the engineering print and review the proposed engineering print to review trees and shrubs marked for removal, and ensure preservation for trees that are not. She was also asked to review a landscape budget for replacement of trees and shrubs once the waterline is installed. Bids will be done in December for the project, and she will be meeting with the city engineer to discuss the areas affected.

Drought Problems: Miss Schumm stated several City trees that were planted trees three years ago are going through drought stress. Tree gator bags have been rotated over the last two months on newly planted streets to combat this problem. Each gator bags hold 20 gallons of water that is slowly released within 8 to 10 hours and provides deep water saturation. Trees under stress from drought are predisposed to disease and insect attack, so they will continue to be monitored.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mrs. Pease stated the theme for the 2008 Arbor Day is, “Trees are Terrific Inside and Out”. She will be sending the teachers in September the rules for the National Arbor Day poster contest so they have plenty of time for the children to participate by December’s deadline. Mrs. Pease also stated she will hold the poetry contest again next year, due to the great contributions this year. A reclaimed wood craft will also be added for children who prefer to make a craft instead of poem or poster.

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Discussion was held on using the public library display cases to display the Arbor Day information, and a copy of the Landmark Tree Registry.

Ms. Davis stated she is on a talk circuit for the Twinsburg Garden Club and surrounding counties and wanted the Commission to know she will be discussing the EAB as part of these talks.

Ms. Pease suggested having an EAB talk at the Moebius Nature Center for the public in November similar to the one held in the spring to educate the public on a continuing basis.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Mrs. Hudson seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dr. James Tomko - Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary