

**CITY OF AURORA
TREE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, September 18, 2007**

The Aurora Tree Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 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:	Louise Bruck Deborah Davis Kim Pease Rob Swaney – Vice Chairman James Tomko – Chairman
Absent	Robert Galaska Meg Hudson
Also Present:	Courtney Schumm –City Arborist Madeleine Marazzi –Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Swaney moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2007 minutes. Mrs. Pease seconded and the motion was passed 5 – 0 with a voice vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Dr. Tomko read a letter sent to him from Ms. Conti, 234 S. Chillicothe. In her letter she thanked the Commission and Courtney Schumm (City Arborist) for the time spent to listen to her problems with the current developing of Kiwanis Moore Park (City Center Park) area. She thanked the Commission for the time, knowledge and the passion the commission puts forth in protecting a living resource our trees. She also thanked Courtney Schumm for doing a great job as the City Arborist and thanked her for reviewing the project and answering her questions.

Miss Schumm stated she reviews the site plans as they come in. There is a large ash tree that is half dead that will need to come down to accommodate the skate park, which was on her tree removal list. As each phase of the new areas of the Kiwanis Moore Park comes in, additional landscaping will be done to improve the area.

Miss Schumm stated she has no jurisdiction over trees that lie in proposed detention basins created for storm water management due to the properties along 43 being flooded several times in the past years. Mrs. Conti was challenging the location of the basin but due to the

wetlands adjacent that can't be developed. The area the basin will be constructed was best due to the elevation. In order to build the basin a section of brush and trees that are on city property need to be cleared. Along the edge of the basin will be a large landscape mound to keep the shape of the basin that will be planted with trees and shrubs that will create a buffer.

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 October 14 at 4 pm.

b.Tree Commission Ordinance: Tabled:

c. Emerald Ash Borer Program Update: The EAB sub-committee decided to meet in October to discuss programs that could be held at the Moebius Nature Center to make the public aware of the possible Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Miss Schumm stated another EAB infestation was found in Cuyahoga County coming from Michigan heading East but none have been identified in Portage or Summit Counties as of yet. Miss Schumm passed out the updated map of states infected and also of the detection trees & quarantine 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., Hurd and Chatham and Chelmsford Drives. Six ash trees are in the Memorial Tree Garden.

Miss Schumm stated it was recommended to treat the trees with a soil drench this fall and treat them again in the spring. It takes a long time for the older trees to translocate the treatment through the trunk and branches. Miss Schumm stated she had received a proposal for ash tree treatments. Treating approximately 45 trees with Merit (Imidicloprid) will cost roughly \$3,800. She would like this to be done on an annual basis until they find possibly a cure.

Discussion was held on when to do the treatment, before the trees shut down for the season or wait until the spring.

MOTION:

The Tree Commission recommended approving \$3,800 to treat 40 designated ash trees pending research of application timing .

Mrs. Pease moved: Mr. Swaney seconded and the motion passed 5-0 with a voice vote.

d. Fall Tree Planting: Miss Schumm stated 80 trees will be planted this fall by the Parks Department. to include Campus Drive (not out of our budget), Hampton Glen, The Reserves of Aurora, Barrington Blvd., Woodview Estates, Hartman Farm, and Memorial Tree Garden with plantings starting around the path. Miss Schumm stated planting is schedules for the beginning of October.

e. 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 beginning Sept. 19th. With the exception of the trees at the Hartman Farm and Barrington Blvd, all removals will be replaced in the spring of 2008. 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. Two dying walnut trees at the triangular City Property will be also be removed.

f. Memorial Tree Garden update: Miss Schumm stated 12 new requests for fall planting. Miss Schumm stated the grove is almost full and future planting will be done along the path, possibly at the Kiwanis Moore Park, an area at the Aurora Wetlands is being considered to go along the trail system that is being planned. Miss Schumm stated she would bring the list of trees at the next meeting for possible different recommendations from the Commission to add variety to the garden.

ARBORIST REPORT REVIEW/QUESTIONS: Miss Schumm which included most of the new business. Miss Schumm stated there is approximately 60% remaining in the 2007 budget and will be meeting with Mr. Kraus, Parks and Recreation Director to discuss 2008 budget which hopefully will include more money for the Memorial Tree Garden, tree replacement and removal. There is \$5, 639 left in the tree planting, \$14,775.20 in the tree maintenance/removal fund and \$219.30 left in the memorial tree garden fund. Large tree removals will be contracted in October/November. Tree Planting/MTG budget will be depleted by mid-October.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. SR. 82 Water Main Project: Miss Schumm stated there is a waterline that will be replaced starting at SR 306 by Mario's, and ending at the depot by the railroad track on SR 82. This is the first phase of a four phase project. Part of the sidewalk will be replaced and some trees will be removed due to the grade change. Miss Schumm is currently looking at the trees for the city engineer to have the costs of the trees that need to be replaced for the contractor. Miss Schumm stated she has to make sure there is preservation fencing around trees to be protected, and pruning and planting specifications in the general contract specs. Bids will be done in December for the project and she will be meeting with the city engineering to discuss the trees affected.

Tree Commission Meeting
Tuesday, September 18, 2007
Page 4.

Discussion was held on types of trees that are salt-tolerant and would survive winter road salting. The Commission stated they would contact Miss Schumm with preferences.

b. New Development Landscape Plans: Miss Schumm reviewed the following landscape plans with the Commission members: Lakes of Aurora (Sheffield Estates), Kiwanis-Moore Skate park, Colony Drive and Aurora Hill Dr. Pump Stations, Marc's Addition and Parking Lot expansion and Ferlolia Funeral Home.

MISCELLANEOUS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Dr. James Tomko - Chairman

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary