

**CITY OF AURORA  
TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, March 18, 2008**

The Aurora Tree Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at City Hall Council Chambers, for the purpose of holding a regular meeting. Chairman Jim Tomko called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present:	Deborah Davis Kim Pease Rob Swaney – Vice Chairman Dr. James Tomko - Chairman
Absent	Louise Bruck Robert Galaska Meg Hudson
Also Present:	Courtney Schumm –City Arborist Madeleine Marazzi –Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Pease moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2008 minutes. Mr. Swaney seconded and the motion was passed, 4–0 with a voice vote.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Landmark Tree program: Mr. Swaney stated the sub-committee will be meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am for the next outing. Miss Schumm discussed the possibility of having the landmark trees on the website, with a map showing locations. Discussion was held about privacy issues pertaining to trees on private property. The Commission decided to create a tree location map, with a point and click feature explaining what kind of tree it is along with other pertinent information. Miss Schumm stated she would like a more extensive map on file to use in reference to sites where new development may impact trees with landmark designation. Discussion was held on getting the addresses for the map on file.

Tree Commission Ordinance: Tabled:

Miss Schumm stated with the help of the commission, she would like to revise and strengthen sections of the Ordinance to bring it up to date and add more detail in reference to development, preservation, planting, and pruning procedures. She is presently looking over several ordinances of neighboring cities, and including such programs such as a preservation bank, and possibly a cost sharing program. Miss Schumm stated the Aurora's ordinances are in two sections: one is for development on private property, (residential, commercial, and industrial areas) which is extremely vague, and the other discusses trees in public property. These will need to include more detail, and be less confusing for developers to follow.

Several members offered to help update the ordinance, and Miss Schumm stated she would be sending out the different sections from different cities for the members to review and update the smaller sections. She also would be updating the tree management plan.

SR 82 Waterline Improvements: Miss Schumm stated she had a list of plant materials that are recommended for replacement of vegetation along the length of the project. The numbers at this time include incorporating 26 flats of groundcover, 45 perennials, 42 deciduous shrubs, 58 evergreen shrubs, 154 total deciduous trees, and 46 evergreen trees. Some of these trees might be substituted as the project proceeds, but the original lists of replacement numbers are included in the bid specifications.

Geauga Lake planter boxes: Miss Schumm stated Mr. Galaska requested an update for Councilman Vaca about the status of the trees along the north end of SR 43. Miss Schumm stated Mr. Kraus (Parks and Recreation Director) has been talking with Mr. Trew (Service Director), and will be discussing this at the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of a streetscape section plan. Miss Schumm stated Mr. Kraus will map out a timeline for project completion, since his crews would be responsible for the construction and installation.

**ARBORIST REPORT REVIEW/QUESTIONS:** See report attached.

Discussion was held on distributing proper tree care information through homeowners' association newsletters, and about including tags on newly installed street trees with information about proper mulching.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Emerald Ash Borer Presentation: Miss Schumm stated she would have a presentation at the next meeting of what will hopefully be presented to the public to renew public awareness about this devastating insect. Miss Schumm passed out an updated map of newly quarantined areas in Ohio, and surrounding states. Miss Schumm stated the city did treat several large ash trees on Shawnee and Eldridge last fall due to their impact on the neighborhood in hopes of saving them.

Arbor Day Update: Mrs. Pease stated we have a poster contest winner that won first place for the State of Ohio. Her poster has gone to the National Competition to compete against 49 other posters. The contest winner will receive a savings bond, a gift certificate, a framed poster and a tree to plant. The winner's names will be announced at the Arbor Day ceremony on Friday, April 25. As of this date no poems have been received from Valley Christian Academy, some poems will be picked up from Leighton School. The winning poems and posters will be displayed at the Moebius Nature Center for one year.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Discussion was held on donating a memorial tree in memory of Dan Melcher, that would represent the different environmental organizations he was part of. Tree Commission members will be checking with the Audubon Society, Moebius Nature Center and the City.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mrs. Pease moved to adjourn: Mr. Swaney seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

---

Dr. James Tomko – Chairman

---

Madeleine Marazzi – Recording Secretary

