

CITY OF AURORA  
**TREE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
April 16, 2019

The Aurora Tree Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2019, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Deborah Davis.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Deborah Davis  
Laurena Entsminger  
Kim Pease  
Martha Sickinger  
Rob Swaney  
James Tomko  
James Vaca Sr.  
Absent: Laura Holman, Director, Parks & Recreation  
Also Present: Ben Askren, Arborist  
Marie Lawrie, Secretary Pro-Tem

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION: To adopt the minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting, as corrected**

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Pease seconded, and the motion carried, on a 7-0 roll call vote.  
Yeas: Mr. Vaca, Ms. Pease, Ms. Sickinger, Mr. Swaney, Dr. Tomko, Ms. Davis, Ms. Entminger  
Nays: None

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Ms. Sickinger reported that a resident let her know that Mr. Askren was helpful to her. A fence was mentioned as a solution to her problem.

Dr. Tomko received several citizens comments against the proposed power lines.

Ms. Davis inquired about the poles being installed along SR 43 across from the outlet stores. They were reportedly replacement poles that were being installed.

Mr. Askren reported a pole on North Bissell Road was being replaced due to an issue with the guide wire. Five trees were removed during this maintenance.

## **ARBORIST REPORT:**

### **Spring Tree Planting**

69 trees were picked up from Klyn Nursery and planted within a few days. 99 additional trees will be delivered and planted within the Villas of Bertram early next week. 4 Douglas Firs and an Ohio Buckeye were planted at City Hall and the Police Station. The Ohio Buckeye will be in honor of our 220<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The Rotary Club donated \$3500 toward the tree and plaque. There will be a celebration. Mr. Askren explained that a Douglas fir is a cross between the hemlocks and the firs. Its name means a false Hemlock. The cones are 6" long with brackets all around. They can grow approximately 70 feet tall. The Douglas fir has acclimated well to the soil in this area.

Mr. Vaca asked when the parking lot would be completed for the tree museum. Mr. Askren stated that a timeline is being developed.

### **Tree Maintenance**

All the trees in Four Seasons have been pruned. Trees were pruned at the Kiwanis Moore Park, City Hall, and the Police Station. 9 trees were taken down and 5 trees were replaced. 24 Ash trees and their stumps were removed along the ditches in Geauga Lake.

Pre-emergence herbicides have been applied to trees at the tree museum. Sunny Lake will be treated as well. Ms. Davis suggested Mr. Askren write an article about the vinegar solution he is using. Mr. Askren stated that he would like to wait and see how the product performs. Another solution containing salt was discussed. The arborist did not favor putting salt into the soil.

Members asked about the trees planted near the city mulch pile. Mr. Askren explained that those trees may be used for the holidays in the gazebo. They need time to grow.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **🌳 Calendar Review:**

- Arbor Day short stories were passed out to be read by members for the contest. Scott Pease will be judging the best posters and photography. Kim Pease will be reading the poems. T-shirts have been ordered. Other prizes were discussed. Small back packs and water bottles will be prizes.
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Tree City USA – 7 members will attend. Transportation was discussed. Members will meet at the Walker Building at 7:30am.
- No meeting will be held in May.
- May 11<sup>th</sup> is City Wide Clean-Up. Meet at the Aurora High School at 7:30am.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> will be Mulch Day. Mr. Swaney is unavailable.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Calendar**

Ms. Entsminger researched putting a calendar together. UPS made the Aurora Historical Society calendars. They reportedly did a wonderful job. There was an upfront cost to print the calendars. Sponsors paid for most of the cost of the calendars.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- Ms. Davis will present Landscape Awards at the 7:00pm council meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>
- Letters to winners are drafted and will be sent the first week in May. Plaques need to be ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Ms. Pease moved to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. Mr. Vaca seconded, and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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Deborah Davis - Chairman

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Marie Lawrie – Secretary Pro-Tem