

Minutes of the Highland Tree Commission Meeting

January 4, 2011

Korte Recreation Center

Members Present: Kathryn Comish, Sheila Gruender, Josh Hetley, Jeannie Korte, Bill Peck, Barbara Stallard, Patricia Steiner. Mark Rosen gave a brief report before the meeting and left due to another commitment.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Peck at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Arbor Flower Garden/Berm Planting Update – Berm plantings will be done in the spring according to the design mapped out by Barb. Some will be done before the Arbor Day commemoration and will serve as demonstration plantings. Additional planting may be a part of the Arbor Day activities and be completed by those attending. Since some of the plant suggestions in the design were based on local availability, Barb asked that Mark coordinate with her and Josh before plants are purchased to ensure they will be the appropriate size for the space.

Tree City USA Application/Growth Award – Bill inquired as to whether the Tree City USA application for re-certification and Growth Award applications had been submitted. Jeannie replied that both had been submitted on time. Sherry Kesner at the City office submitted both electronically. Documentation for the Growth Award had to be re-submitted in another format, but was successfully completed—thanks to Sherry and Ryan Hummert.

Tree Commission Goal Updates for 2011 – Upon reviewing the goals set in place last year, the TC saw no need to revise them but to continue working to fully achieve stated goals.

Arboretum Path Paving – The path will remain crushed limestone for the time being.

Current E-Mail Listing – Bill still needs an e-mail address for Darrel Newman. He will follow up.

Arboretum Bench Placement Article – A program establishing memorial benches along the Arboretum pathway is postponed until a permanent path is laid.

New Business:

Memorial Walk Plantings – Bill asked whether the TC had an interest in planning some plantings along the new Memorial Walk at Silver Lake Park. Members decided to focus their efforts on the Arboretum for the time being.

Future News Leader Articles – Topics for future articles were discussed. Several were mentioned, i.e. trees for small yards, ornamental trees, trees that attract birds, etc. TC members were asked to come up with a list of suggestions for next month so that we can plan for future articles.

2011 Arbor Day Celebration Date – Arbor Day is commemorated in Illinois on the last Friday in April, this year April 29. The TC decided to hold our local commemoration on Thursday, April 28 to more easily facilitate participation by the school. Pat suggested sending a special invitation to senior citizens as well. She volunteered to invite the residents of our local nursing home facilities. In past years we've been holding a local Arbor Day Poster Contest in conjunction with the national contest. Sheila reported that this year there is evidently no national poster contest. In lieu of this development, the TC has decided to sponsor a poetry contest for students in grades 4 through 6. The poem will be on a tree related theme. Sheila will come up with guidelines for the contest to present at the next meeting for TC approval.

Peripheral Route Planting Plan – Mark Latham has requested TC input on plantings for the new peripheral route. While the TC would be happy to help, we need more information on exactly what is desired/needed. Bill will contact Mark Latham and Mark Rosen for further details.

New Kiosk Plantings – A local Eagle Scout has built a kiosk and installed it at the Arboretum. Plantings are needed around the base of the kiosk. Barb will go out to see the kiosk and make recommendations.

Landscape Design at Cemetery Entrance – Bill reported that Mark asked if anyone on the Tree Commission could serve on an advisory committee to help judge/select a landscape design for the entrance to the City cemetery. Josh volunteered to serve in this capacity. Barb will also help if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm. The next meeting will be February 1, 2011 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeannie Korte