

Minutes of the Highland Tree Commission Meeting
Korte Recreation Center
December 6, 2011

Members Present: Kathryn Comish, Josh Hetley, Ryan Hummert, Jeannie Korte, Darrel Newman, Bill Peck, Mark Rosen, Barbara Stallard.

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

Guests: TC members welcomed Mr. Brad Halford and his mother. Mr. Halford came to express his concerns about potential damage to family graves, burial vaults and headstones due to the growth of tree roots from a nearby Sugar Maple in the City cemetery. After listening to his concerns, TC members thanked Mr. Halford and his mother for coming, agreeing to discuss the matter further and forward recommendations to the appropriate bodies. In the ensuing discussion, TC members reiterated thoughts expressed on this issue last month: the tree is healthy and not likely to cause damage since root systems are so close to the surface; if the tree is cut down, decomposition will likely cause settling and more problems in the area; cutting down a healthy tree would set a bad precedent for the future; costs in removing such a large tree are prohibitive and funds need to be directed towards removal of damaged trees and routine maintenance. Mark will write a report with TC recommendations and forward it to the City Manager and Cemetery Board.

Old Business

Sept. 2012 Tree Hunt – Barb has prepared a proposed outline and table of contents for the Great Tree Hunt booklet. She has asked Highland Printers for a printing cost estimate. TC members also discussed the possibility of printing and binding the booklet ourselves if the number needed was not too large. Jeannie will see if the Chamber office will agree to help. The TC plans to sponsor the Tree Hunt next year in conjunction with Arbor Day and conclude it at 175th Jubilee celebration.

Tree Labels at Arboretum – The TC would like to label the trees that have been planted at the Arboretum. Small wooden stakes/posts with a metal plate are a possibility. We could incorporate this into our Arbor Day activities.

EAB update – Bill reported that the Emerald Ash Borer infestation continues to spread and is now only two counties away.

Favorite Tree Article – The TC series on our favorite trees has not yet been published. We had planned to count this series of articles towards points needed to obtain the Growth Award again this year. Barb and Jeannie will both try again to contact Curt to learn the status of this series.

Plaza Square Blackgum – Mark reported that the Blackgum tree selected to replace the damaged Bradford Pear on the Square will be planted after the Christmas decorations are taken down.

New Business

Cemetery Tree Issue – See Guest report above.

Arbor Day Events – See Sept 2012 Tree Hunt above. Additional details to be discussed at future meetings.

Optimist Tree Handouts – Barb has already updated the tree recycling handout to be given out at the Optimist Christmas tree lot. She will send it to Jeannie at the Chamber office. Jeannie will print it and deliver it to the tree lot.

TC Meeting Dates for 2012 - Meetings of the Highland Tree Commission are generally held the first Tuesday of the month. Dates for 2012 are Jan. 3, Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, June 5, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. The May meeting is replaced by the Arbor Day celebration in late April, date tbd. There are no meetings in July and August.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next meeting will be January 3, 2012 at 4:00 pm.