

MINUTES HIGHLAND TREE COMMISSION MEETING
April 2, 2013, Korte Recreation Center

Members Present: Ellen Limestall, Darrel Newman, Kathryn Comish, Barbara Stallard, Mark Rosen and School Liaison Sheila Gruender

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Stallard at 4:00 p.m. The minutes of the March meeting were approved with a motion by Ellen Limestall and seconded by Darrel Newman.

No guests were present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Open Meetings Act Training Reminder – All members present have completed the on-line training.

Tree Commission Member Search – Barbara Stallard had contacted the president of the Highland Garden Club and requested it be announced at their March meeting the tree commission has openings and is searching for a couple of new committee members. No response has been received to date.

Library Arbor Day Display – Darrel Newman set up a display at Latzer Library for Arbor Day with educational items.

Arbor Day Celebration – The Arbor Day tree planting and celebration is scheduled for 3:30 at the Highland Regional Arboretum at Silver Lake Park. It will begin with a welcome and announcement of poetry contest winners and presentation of awards. Two winners from 4th, 5th, and 6th grades will read their poems and be presented with Chamber Bucks. The Green Team will participate in planting of a Yoshino Cherry Tree at the event and the celebration will end with refreshments. Mark stated that the bus for the Green Team, medals, ribbons, and Chamber Bucks will be paid for with the tree commission budget. Sheila Gruender will take care of arranging the bus for the Green Team, and obtaining the medals and ribbons. Mark will invite the Mayor to attend our event and Barb will send a notice to the Highland Garden Club. Barb will also submit an article to the Highland News Leader and The Pioneer inviting the Highland residents to the event. Kathryn Comish will bring refreshments for the event.

Yoshino Planting/Spring Festival – John Long, City Attorney and Peg Bellm, Council Woman attended the March meeting and presented information on planting cherry trees similar to those in Washington DC for the possibility of Highland hosting a spring festival. Darrel presented some information he has researched on the topic since the March meeting and will bring more information to June meeting to further discuss the possibility of planting cherry trees in the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Tree Removal – Ryan Hummert received a request for recommendation of tree removal at 1223 Broadway in front of Meridith Funeral Home. Members of the tree commission have viewed the tree. Darrel mentioned the tree appears to be healthy and in good condition, though the relation to the power lines could pose problems in the future. Other potential problems are the narrow strip between the street and the sidewalk where the tree is located, the size of the tree and cost to remove now compared to cost of removal in the future. Also, Mark mentioned that the city has a plan pending for planting of new trees along Broadway. Barbara stated it has not been the policy in the past to remove healthy trees – in the past where power lines issues were brought up the city has pruned the trees to prevent possible problems. It was the consensus of the committee since the tree had no aesthetic value, presented future problems with the power lines, and would cost more in the future to remove, the committee would recommend or approve removal with Meridith Funeral Home paying for the expense of removal.

Poetry Contest – Poetry contest entry winners were selected. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m.

Next Meeting is June 4; the April 25 Arbor Day celebration takes the place of the May meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Stallard