

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2024

Chair Roman Cline called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Roll call: Present were Roman Cline, Beth Kowalski, Laura Schweitzer, Lisa Wiseman, and Alan Gribler. Mark Fouch and Lori Pritchard were absent. Also present were Sheri Theis, Council Liaison, and Doug Baker, volunteer. Mayor Michelle Blanton joined the meeting around 6:30.

The Tree Commission minutes from the July 11, 2024, meeting will be reviewed at the September meeting.

Election of Chair – Beth Kowalski was nominated by Roman Cline. Gribler seconded. All yeas.

Election of Vice Chair – Lisa Wiseman was nominated by Beth Kowalski. Laura Schweitzer seconded. All yeas.

Laura Schweitzer volunteered to be the Publicity Chair for the year.

Old Business:

1. 10 evergreens to finish green screen at Ted Lewis Park are held at Rhoads until we are ready to plant them this fall.
2. IRA Urban and Community Forestry grant status – Final ordinance is going through Council to authorize Service Director to sign for the grant.
3. August 17th - 9:00 a.m. – Field Trip to determine Tree City USA sign locations and planting locations for 200 trees this fall. Meet at Ted Lewis Park.
4. Tree City USA plaque and flag were presented to the Commission.
5. New trees are being watered, but some of the bags seem to be clogged. Weeds are a problem around some of the trees, especially at Smith Park. Mulching was discussed, as was using Roundup.
6. Moved by Kowalski, second by Cline to have Laura Schweitzer order 500 tree commission stickers for \$179.99. All yeas.

New Business:

1. Zelkova complaint was received by the mayor about the bird droppings from the trees in front of Christopher's, City Hall and Administration building on S. Court St. Commission decided to have the trees removed and replaced with a new tree that would not be as dense.
2. Budget status: \$5432 in Council, \$4714 in Service Dept. per Suzanne
The billing question from Split Rail about \$3999 for deciduous trees planted 4/24/24 will be handled by the City Auditor.
3. The next Arbor Day planting date will be April 25, 2025. The CHS FFA would like to add the date to their calendar.
4. Resignation of Roman Cline is effective August 9, 2024. He was thanked for his service to the Commission and will be missed. The vacancy will be posted, and applications will be accepted through the end of the month.

Next meeting Thursday, September 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made by Laura Schweitzer, seconded by Roman Cline. All yeas.