



City of Lake Geneva, 626 Geneva St, Lake Geneva, WI 53147- 262.248.3673- www.cityoflakegeneva.gov

CITY OF LAKE GENEVA TREE BOARD
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022 - 4:00 PM
LAKE GENEVA CITY HALL; CONFERENCE ROOM 2A (UPPER LEVEL)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the September 20, 2022 Tree Board minutes as prepared and distributed
4. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on this agenda
5. Arborist Report: Jon Foster
6. Arbor Day Foundation Award: Sonya Daily
7. Forestry Plan for 2023
8. Parade of Trees Participation, Lake Geneva Museum
9. Next Meeting Date & Time
- 10. Adjournment**

*This is a meeting of the Tree Board.
No official City Council action will be taken; however, a quorum of the Council may be present.*

Tree Board Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm. In attendance was Candy Kirchberg, Sonya Daly, Cindy Yager, and Charlene Klein. In attendance were Jon Foster, Arborist, Morgan Shepherd, Assistant Arborist, and Clara Jacobs.

Although the item was not on the agenda, Sonya Daly gave a report on last year's seed project. She sent the information from the seed project to the Arbor Day foundation,, and found out that the children's project won the award, which was a tremendous achievement. A package was sent to Sonya with the award, and the school will need to do publicity, make calls to the newspapers, and hold a presentation to achieve the award, the date, time, and location has yet to be determined. She said that our school may be the only school in Wisconsin to do this project.

Audience Participation: Dennis (Need last name) spoke out about how many trees are being cut down in his neighborhood-in a 3 square block area, he said 40 trees have been cut down. He felt the board should require a permit to cut down a healthy tree. He sprays his evergreens to protect them from needle cast disease, saying he did three treatments a year to keep them healthy. The product used is Bonnide.

There was discussion on the need to enact stricter regulations to require a permit before a tree was allowed to be taken down.

Jon Foster Report:

1. Jon said that we need to keep planting more trees! The life span of a municipal tree is only 15 years when they're hemmed in by sidewalks, roads, and impervious surfaces. In addition, the cost of purchasing new trees is going up. Even the smaller trees that are placed in containers in the downtown area are rising in cost.
2. Discussion ensued on the best way to notify homeowners of the need to take down hazardous/dangerous trees on private property.
 - a. Put a big X on dangerous/hazardous trees that need to be cut down.
 - b. Have the city send a letter out to the homeowner notifying them of what will occur.
 - c. Put a notification and contact information on the door, and an X on the tree so they know what is going to happen.
 - d. For trees that are going to be planted, the city could create and mail a form letter to the homeowner or leave a notice inside the door.

3. Discussion was held on what the roles and responsibilities were for both the Tree Board and the Park Board.
 - a. The Tree Board is a committee. The Park Board is a true board. Therefore, the Park Board is the deciding body when it comes to tree removal. Someone from the Tree Board may need to sit down with the Park Board and discuss any removal, with pictures and other information on which to make any decision.
 - b. For example, what is the tree species, what is the size of the tree, what is the cost to buy and plant the tree?
 - c. For removals, the Tree Board will keep the Park Board informed as to how many trees would be taken down and keep adding to the list until it is full. (These are the notes I wrote down: this may need clarification.)
4. Discussion: Trees are not a top priority for the city nor are there enough staff/workers to deal with all the tree issues.
 - a. Jon said that trees are always on the back burner, and that's been the case since he came to Lake Geneva. Jon and Morgan try to focus on the necessary tree issues, but they get pulled away on other tasks, including cleaning bathrooms.
 - b. When a city development is finished, they need additional workers to help manage the planting of trees, but there just aren't enough bodies. Ideally, there would be four workers that would be able to plant or remove trees as needed. Jon also said it would be great to get another city forester so they could really take proper care of the trees and he felt that the committee should propose that at a future meeting.
 - c. Because Lake Geneva is a tourist town, Jon and Morgan and other staff people end up having to do other tasks and it takes away from the jobs they were hired to do. Ideally, they would hire one full time and one part time worker so they could split duties and get more done.
 - d. Discussion ensued on whether another person would be helpful, and if it would make sense to divide the managers: one for the parks and trees, and the other manager for public works. As traffic and tourism grows, it gets harder and harder for the city workers to keep up.
 - e. Jon said that in addition to the actual tree work, foresters need time on the job to present their mission and explain what they do and why it's so important to keep planting and taking care of our trees to local boards and committees.
5. Ordinances/Forestry Plan: (I was a little lost in this discussion, so let me know what needs to be changed or amended.)
 - a. Ordinance 82-61: Question was asked if we have a city forester plan, and the city does not. Jon said that needs to be created and implemented, and then included in the ordinance language.
 - b. The forestry plan was presented at the first of the year. We need to spell out the goals for the tree plan (3,5, and 7 years) and why the Tree Board needs to have more funding to "keep our city green" with healthy trees.

- c. 82-61: Sonya wanted to take out the last sentence in the current forestry plan.
- d. (I do not know where that language is-please advise.)
- e. There are ordinances within each of the subdivisions. Could we get these subdivisions to designate some of the green space as part of the overall forestry plan? May be necessary to spell out what that means: in Stone Ridge, they did donate green space, but you can't access it!
- f. Are there trees being planted in Symphony Bay? (I wrote down that there are 3 trees behind each house, and one tree in front, either on the terrace, or on the homeowner's lot.)
- g. Trees were planted on Senior Hill, and they are currently being watered.
- h. Other new subdivisions are also planting trees: some of these new trees are on the city terrace.

6. Creation of a Forestry Tree Plan

- a. When doing a development, stipulate the number of trees and the cost of those trees that are being planted.
- b. We are getting behind on replacement trees. It was noted that eight trees were donated this year.
- c. No trees should be planted at street corners, under wires, or less than 30' apart.
- d. We need to create a one-year plan to remove and replace as many diseased/dying trees as we can.
- e. Help is always needed with watering! Maybe next year we can put a "citizen watering brigade" together and divide up the city into sections so local citizens can help keep our trees healthy.
- f. Set a goal to develop a forestry plan that would be done by January 1, 2023.
- g. It would be a good idea to create a city-wide "tree campaign" to educate people on the many, many benefits of trees!

7. Tree Board Budget

- a. The proposed 2023 tree board budget had to be submitted by 9:30 September 21, 2022.
- b. The board proposed to spend \$15,000 for trees, primarily for replacement and along the White River.

The Tree Board meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm. Candy Kirchberg made the motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Cindy Yager. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Leighton Eusebio

Arbor Day Foundation

402-473-2103

lesuebio@arborday.org

Central-Denison Elementary School Earns Tree Campus K-12 Distinction

From the Arbor Day Foundation

*Program honors schools that demonstrate an outstanding commitment
to nature-based education*

Lake Geneva, Wisconsin November 2, 2022– Central-Denison Elementary School is one of 70 elementary, middle, and high schools across the United States to earn recognition through the Arbor Day Foundation’s [Tree Campus K-12](#) program.

The Arbor Day Foundation is the largest membership nonprofit organization dedicated to tree planting. Its Tree Campus K-12 program, launched last year, encourages educators to create meaningful opportunities for students to interact with trees.

“Spending time in nature sparks children’s imaginations, improves mental and physical health, and shapes them into lifelong environmental stewards,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “We are thrilled to see schools like Central-Denison Elementary School lead the way in this important work.”

To earn this distinction, Central-Denison Elementary School met four goals:

- Maintain a **Tree Campus team** that is dedicated to achieving recognition
- Create an **education plan** that connects students to trees and their global benefits
- Offer a **hands-on experience** that engages students in trees and the community
- Hold an **Arbor Day observance** to celebrate trees within the school or the community

Our Tree Campus team consisted of nearly 500 participants! They included Lake Geneva Tree Board Chairperson Candy Kirchberg, City Arborist Jon Foster, members Sonya Dailey, Colorado Goldwyn, Clara Jacobs and Mayor Charlene Klein. Participants from the Lake Geneva schools included Principals Becky Buhler (Central-Denison Elementary), Chipper Tenneson (Star Center Elementary), Erin Zigler (East View Elementary) and about 450 students and teachers from grades 2 and 5. Second grade teachers from Central-Denison Elementary Janelle Matthiesen, Deb Gebhardt, Colleen Światowy, Kory Garlock, Ruth Neu, Mackenzie Umnus, SarahKuespert, Becky Wright and all of their 140 students are credited

with collecting over 2000 Sugar Maple seeds from iconic trees on school grounds. High School FFA students, under the direction of Candice Franks, also participated by conducting germination experiments with some of the Sugar Maple seeds.

The educational plan began with 2nd grade students at Central-Denison Elementary learning to collect mature Sugar Maple seeds from trees on their playground. Students did an amazing job and collected over 2000 seeds; enough to share with 3 other schools! Teachers then conducted lessons on the importance that trees play in all our lives and every student went home with seeds and instructions of how to plant them in a location of their choice.

During the Arbor Day observance that was held at Central-Denison the following spring, 8 second grade teachers presented the city of Lake Geneva with a fantastic Tree Book created by all 140 of their students. This lasting legacy of the project is available for viewing at the Lake Geneva Public Library in downtown Lake Geneva.

To earn this national award, Central-Denison Elementary School met all four of the program requirements. An amazing Tree Campus Team created educational goals that included hands on learning for nearly 450 students. The group was honored by the city of Lake Geneva during the Arbor Day Celebration of 2022.

Other Arbor Day Foundation recognition programs include Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Education, and Tree Campus Healthcare. Working together, the four programs celebrate tree planting efforts at nearly every community level.

To learn more and see the full list of recognized schools, visit arborday.org/K12.

About the Arbor Day Foundation

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival.

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at arborday.org.

#