

**City of Lake Geneva Tree Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday November 1, 2022-4:00 pm**  
**Lake Geneva City Hall**

The Tree Board was called to order at 4:04 pm. In attendance: Candy Kirchberg, Chairperson, Cindy Yager, Alderperson, and Mayor Charlotte Klein. Sonya Dailey was absent. Also in attendance: City Arborist Jon Foster, Assistant Arborist Morgan Shephard, and Susan Cardiff.

- Audience members: Mary Jo Fesenmaier, Dennis Hines, and Jeff Kelly
- Minutes were approved by (I did not get the approval and second: help!)

Public Comments: Limited to five minutes per individual

Dennis Hines Comments: Address 336 Laurie Street

Dennis Hines said that in his opinion, the city will need between \$200,000-\$250,000 over the next seven years to take down all the blue spruce trees that will die from Rhizosphaera needle cast disease. Dennis uses Sulphur Funganal to treat his trees, and said that to be effective, you need a sprayer that will reach 60' in the air. Dennis sprays his trees three times a year: spring, mid-summer, and fall.

He also said that there are seven pine trees that need to come down on the corner of Eugene and South Shore Drive. The trees are 35' high, and he estimated that the cost to take them down could be between \$5,000-\$6,000.

Clarification needed:

- Have Jon clarify which species are at risk for the Rhizosphaera disease.
- Is that disease a pine needle disease.
- Are the blue spruce trees also susceptible?
- Does blowing out the pine needles under trees help reduce the spread?

Jon can't touch any tree in the city that is on private property. He said that some homeowners are afraid that when other people are spraying chemicals nearby, there may be a potential danger of spreading airborne particles. Jon also said that Dennis needs to be careful when he sprays his trees, as he could be liable if there was a risk that people or pets in the vicinity could inhale the chemical particles.

Dennis told the board that he has a lot of pull with the media and could do PR for a campaign to promote more trees in the city. He also suggested stronger regulations for taking down a tree, even on private property.

#### Mary Jo Fesenmaier Comments: Address: 1085 South Lake Shore Drive

Mary Jo attended a recent DPW meeting. At the meeting, there was discussion about starting a new tree program in the city. If a homeowner agreed to plant, water, and care for a tree that was going to be planted on the terrace, the city would give the homeowner the tree. Hopefully this would encourage more residents to do the same. No further action was taken.

#### Jeff Kelly Comments: No address given

Jeff is a grad student at the State Urban Forestry program in Oregon, Wisconsin.  
I didn't write anything else down about Jeff....

#### Tree Board and Park Board Managers for 2023

The Tree Board and Park Board would like to create two positions in 2023 for separate managers. Right now, employees are pulled in many different directions, and it is often frustrating and non-productive. Job duties should be clearly defined so everyone understands what needs to be done, when, and by whom.

Creating a Director of Public Works position was also discussed, but no action was taken.

Jon told the group that the budget for trees in 2023 went up. There will be \$15,000 for replacement trees in the budget, and \$15,000 to install the iron rings that protect the vulnerable trees along the main streets in the downtown area.

#### Arbor Day Foundation Award

As was reported during the last meeting, The City of Lake Geneva was one of 70 schools nationwide and one of only three schools in Wisconsin to be recognized as a K-12 Tree Campus School from the Arbor Day Foundation. Members of the Lake Geneva Tree Board presented the school with a plaque and a K-12 Tree Campus Flag at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony.

Each year, the city honors somebody in Lake Geneva on Arbor Day and this year it was dedicated to the second-grade students in Central Denison Elementary School, and to Principal Becky Buhler. "For a long time, the tree board has wanted to partner with the schools," said Sonya Dailey, a City of Lake Geneva Tree Board Member. "We finally thought of an activity that might be doable." Buhler had her students collect as many maple seeds as possible, and they came up with a total of 2,000 seeds, according to Dailey.

"All the kids worked on the project. They had enough seeds, so we were able to share them with the other schools," Dailey said. "The kids also got a handout of how to plant the seeds. But even if they didn't know how to do it, they know there is such a thing as planting a tree and in second grade, that's a great foundation to build upon. We can always use more trees!"

As part of the overall project, the 100 children involved each created their own separate Arbor Day page. The pages were then made into a book, and the book is now on display at the Lake Geneva Library.

### Lake Geneva Museum: Parade of Trees

The parade of trees starts on November 19<sup>th</sup>. My notes show that Jon is the one that oversees getting the tree. (I need clarification). Discussion was held on what kind of tree the Tree Board should get, possibly a pre-lit tree, and then the board would decorate it with natural elements. Another suggestion was to reach out to Nine Lives and possibly buy a tree for \$100.00, but no decision was reached. Plans are to decorate the tree on November 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Cindy Yager: Internship Ag Programs for High School & Colleges

Cindy provided the board members with an overview of internship programs that are managed by the State Education program and developed for high school and technical colleges. Currently there are students in the ag program that are active in both the parks and recreation programs. These internship programs allow students to potentially get high school and college credits. Additionally, some students in the program can get paid at the same rate as beginning workers.

The first step to getting into a program is to talk with the school district to see if the student would be a good fit. This is done before anyone sits down to talk with a potential candidate. As part of the overall process, whoever is overseeing the program must review all the requirements that each student needs to do, and then determine if they can achieve what is required and if the program is a good fit for the student.

Cindy said that students in the program must complete 40 scholastic hours in one school year, and then they can be minimally hired for 40 hours (I am assuming that the student would be paid for these hours?). Additionally, there is specific criteria and strict regulations that must be followed in terms of what the students are able to learn and do. For instance, if a student is under 18, they may not be able to do specific tasks, like operate a chain saw. However, under careful supervision, students can get opportunities to learn how to use other types of equipment.

Many elements go into making these programs successful. Ideally, students would be juniors when they start their two-year internship program, and they would already have a potential career in mind. If they complete the two years of internship, they would be guaranteed to receive 15 hours of college credit for those two years. Cindy said that the interns need to realize they are there to work! It's important to keep them busy and learning as much as possible while they are in the program. ***As a side note, she said that in the next five years, 60% of workers in the trades will retire!***

During the internship, there is at least one “check-in” appointment to review how things are going and deal with any issues that need to be addressed. The appointment can be done through email, text, in person, or on the phone.

Cindy will get in touch with Tom regarding this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm, with a motion to adjourn by Candy Kirchberg, and seconded by Cindy Yager.

The next meeting is December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Cardiff. *Please send me any corrections!*