

MINUTES:

TREE BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 14TH 2024

1. Call to Order: 4:09 pm
2. Roll Call: Candy K Chair, Peg Esposito, Sonya Dailey, Peggy Schneider, Alexander Leonard, Jon Foster City Forester, Morgan Sheppard assistant arborist,
3. Welcome to new members: Peggy Schneider, Alexander Leonard
4. Comments from the Public:

Sonya- Talked about I-Naturalist website that can be used to update plantings in local area and local wildlife. Over time information from the website can be used for research grade. She believes it will work well to document and identify the trees in Hillmore property with the help of Badger High School.

5. Arborist Report:

Jon discussed that lights on the smaller trees in the downtown are not good for the trees and are not aesthetically pleasing to the eye because of their random arrangement and placement or lack of symmetry. He also explained how trimming the downtown trees is made difficult because of the light strings needed to be unwrapped for proper pruning. He also mentioned that girdling of stems & branches can occur when they are left on the tree too long. Further discussion and suggestions were made to encourage the downtown business owners to consider wrapping light poles and building façade's rather than putting them in or on the trees.

Sonya made a motion Candy Kirchberg Tree Board Chair write a letter suggesting to the Park Board that they request that the downtown trees not be wrapped with lights and that alternatives be considered for Christmas lighting and or all year lighting. Peg Esposito seconded the motion and all members voted unanimous in agreement.

Candy Kirchberg the Tree Board Chair will be composing the letter to give to the Park Board asking for their approval to request that the current practices of the placing of downtown lighting in trees be changed. Candy will also be asking Dan Draper for legal ideas on how we can help control vandalism to trees, especially in the downtown area where patrons of some of the drinking establishments are using trees for entertainment/destruction.

Peg Esposito discussed how the tree protection ring plans are stalled, but further discussion could be pursued in the fall when more apprentice welders will be working with the company. Jon suggested that all replacement plantings in the downtown be B&B plants that are substantially larger than the

containerized trees. This would make it much harder for catastrophic vandalism to take place.

Jon reported that the soil injection for Spongy Moth is being done this week at Oak Hill Cemetery and on the 5-acre lot off Conant Street. The forestry department will be using Lepi-tect a chemical purchased for soil injection providing an extra boost for the oaks to resist the infestation. He also believes that the weather may be promoting Entomophaga maimaiga to multiply. This is a fungus that was introduced in the area but is naturally occurring and helps control the spongy moth and possibly cause a major reduction in populations of the pest.

Jon also discussed having symmetry in the downtown with tree plantings. Currently the predominate tree is the Flowering Pear which will soon be banned in the state because of its invasiveness. The other trees planted in the grates are Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac, Ginkgo's & Honey locust. Jon asked what the Tree Board would prefer to be used for the replacements in the upcoming planting. There are 8-10 trees that need to be replanted in the downtown grates.

Sonya made the motion to have Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac be the tree of symmetry in the downtown, and Alex Leonard seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve.

Jon also briefly discussed netting of small trees to protect against cicada, his concern is the nets may cause more damage to the trees than the cicada because of wind and vandalism.

6. Candy Kirchberg suggested Alex Leonard be the investigative enforcement of corporate business tree planting agreements that are not be followed when it comes to green space. Trees that have been taken down have not been replaced. Alex would have to work with the city's code enforcement.
7. Future agenda items:
I-Naturalist Website details from Sonya, further discussion on downtown lighting and this falls planting list.
8. Next Meeting Date & Time: June 11th, 2024 4:00 PM
9. Adjournment: Alexander makes motion to adjourn, Peggy Esposito seconded and all unanimously approved.