

Minutes of the Highland Tree Commission Meeting

Korte Recreation Center

March 6, 2012

Members Present: Kathryn Comish, Jeannie Korte, Ellen Limestall, Darrel Newman, Bill Peck, Mark Rosen. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Peck at 4:00pm. The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Guests: Mark introduced Emily Hanson, Urban Forestry Volunteer Coordinator from SIU Carbondale. Emily is visiting Southern Illinois communities and tree boards to observe how they work and to offer her assistance in helping them manage their urban forests.

Old Business

2012 Tree Hunt – Jeannie shared a draft of the 2012 Tree Hunt booklet prepared by Barb Stallard with TC members for their review and input. She will meet with Barb to discuss and make the necessary changes. Darrel has secured 6 advertising sponsors for the booklet. Rural King, Widmer Floral, Kalmer Landscape Supply, Three Way Creations, Ace Hardware and Personal Preference have all agreed to a business card size ad at \$30. Darrel will collect checks from each payable to the City of Highland and give them to Mark. He will also collect the business cards for the ads. Final cost of printing the booklet is yet to be determined. TC members decided to start with 100 copies. The booklets could be displayed and distributed through the advertiser's places of business, the Korte Rec Center and the Chamber of Commerce. A few will be available at the Arbor Day celebration on April 26, but flyers will be prepared and distributed to the students attending that describe the Tree Hunt and invite participation.

TC Members Contact List – Bill has updated and distributed a list of Tree Commission members and their contact information to all members.

Arbor Day Tree Labels – Mark will check with Ryan Hummert to make sure all trees planted in the Arboretum at Silver Lake by the Tree Commission are appropriately labeled before April 26.

Favorite Tree Article Update – Barb Stallard's favorite tree article was published in the Highland News Leader on February 16. Barb has been in contact with Curt and established a suggested order for subsequent articles. Jeannie's article will be next, scheduled to be published in early spring.

Library Arbor Day Display – Bill requested materials for the Arbor Day display he sets up in the library in April. Mark will be attending the Tree City USA conference on March 27 and will bring back some new materials for Bill then.

New Business

4th Grade Foresters Project – Mark provided information on this project for TC reference, but stated that there are no funds available for it this year.

Arbor Day Poetry Contest – Sheila Gruender has agreed to coordinate the poetry contest again this year. The contest is open to students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Two winners from each grade will be chosen by the TC. Awards will be Chamber gift certificates. Winners will receive their awards and read their poems at the Arbor Day celebration. Sheila sent a contest entry form via e-mail for TC approval. Sheila also offered to coordinate school "Green Team" attendance at the Arbor Day celebration.

Arbor Day Plantings – Josh Hetley was able to procure trees for planting at last year's Arbor Day event. Bill will contact him to see if he will be able to do so again this year.

VFW Tree Removal – Trees have been removed from all around the VFW lake. This property is outside City limits, so City restrictions on tree removal do not apply.

Thousand Cankers Disease – Bill had information on the spread of this disease throughout the state and Midwest. Black Walnut trees are especially at risk. Currently there is no known treatment. Spread of the disease can be somewhat thwarted by not transporting affected wood out of the area.

Cemetery Request – Mark reported that a resident requested the planting of two trees near his wife's grave in the City cemetery in Block 13. The grave is near the roadway, so Mark asked for suggestions for small trees that would fit the site. Fringe Tree was one suggestion. Such requests are considered on a case by case basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm. The next meeting will be April 3, 2012 at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeannie Korte