

Minutes of the Highland Tree Commission Meeting
Korte Recreation Center
September 4, 2012

Members Present: Kathryn Comish, Jeannie Korte, Ellen Limestall, Darrel Newman, Mark Rosen, Barb Stallard
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barb Stallard at 4:00pm. The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Guests: Al Holt spoke to the TC regarding a Sweetgum tree on the property of Merle White at Sycamore and Main. This large tree has grown into the power lines, risking a power outage should storm damage occur, and the numerous gumballs are a hazard for the homeowner. Mr. Holt asked that the tree be heavily pruned to minimize these risks. Ryan Hummert will be asked to look at it and give his recommendations. A final recommendation will be made at the next meeting.

Old Business

Tree Hunt Contest – The Jubilee Tree Hunt contest is underway and will conclude Sept. 15. The public was reminded via a notice in the Highland News Leader and The Pioneer of this deadline. Nearly 150 booklets have been distributed. Entries have been slow to come in, but hopefully more will be returned in these last weeks. Barb placed markers next to each tree to assist participants. Prizes include several trees suitable for planting in the home landscape, donated by Josh Hetley, and 2 landscape upgrades valued at \$175 and one \$500 landscape upgrade, donated by Darrel Newman. Winners will be determined by drawing the names those who've submitted correct entries. Barb and Jeannie will get together to do this. Winners will be announced at the 175th Jubilee Celebration on Sept. 29.

My Favorite Tree Articles – Josh Hetley's article on the Tri-Color Beech was published in the June 21 edition of the Newsleader. One article remains to be published—Darrel Newman's. New TC members will be asked if they would like to submit an article to continue this series.

City Cemetery Oak Tree – Mark reported that a very old Oak Tree in the City Cemetery will be removed soon.

Lutzer Library Arbor Day Display – Darrel volunteered to take over putting together the Arbor Day display at the library. This was previously done by former tree commission member and chairman Bill Peck.

New TC Member – Maureen Napper has accepted a position on the Tree Commission.

New Business

Resident Tree Removal Request – Residents have requested that trees be considered for removal at two locations, 1602 Maple and 806 9th Street. The trees are in the City's ROW. There are 4 trees on Maple Street. They are not aesthetically appealing and drop branches; they are growing within a narrow strip between sidewalk and street. According to City ordinance, the cost to remove them would be borne by the homeowner. The tree on 9th Street is a large, healthy Ginko. Darrel stated that his business, Personal Preference Landscape Care, is contracted by the owner to clean up leaves. This tree does not appear to have any issues at this time. TC members recommend that it be left standing. Mark will contact these property owners.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm. The next meeting will be October 2 at 4:00pm.