

Minutes
TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 26, 2013

Attendance: Gay MacLeod
 Peter Viteretto
 Christine Names
 Rob Frazier

Staff: Hal Alvord, Tree Warden
 Paul Sotnik, Deputy Tree Warden
 Dilene Byrd, Secretary

Absent: Rich Whitehead

Norwalk Tree Alliance: Dan Landau

Neighborhood Liaisons: Ron Muller
 Ann Marie Ekstrom

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairwomen MacLeod called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2013

Ms. Names said that her name should be added as absent on the attendance roster.

**** MR. FRAZIER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REPORT - INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL CUTTING

Mr. Sotnik said that there were no illegal cuttings to report.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

- a. Main Street - 2 trees with planters
 Mr. Sotnik said that Ms. Fossella is working on getting some new locations in the Main Street area. He said that she has requested that staff speak to the property owners in front of the Beach Restaurant to remove the Christmas lights and the trash from the tree planters. Mr. Frazier asked if the Redevelopment Agency

could be responsible for installing and removing the Christmas lights as a business enhancement so that there is uniformity. Mr. Alvord said that he could not speak for other departments and that Mr. Sheehan would have to be contacted. He also suggested that Mr. Shockley be contacted. Ms. Eckstrom asked if the lights in the trees on Washington Street were removed. Mr. Alvord said "yes" when the trimming was done. Ms. Names asked if there are trash receptacles in the area. Mr. Alvord said "No". Ms. MacLeod said that she would speak to Keep Norwalk Beautiful regarding installing trash receptacles. Ms. Fossella also asked why the trees were installed in planters rather than planted in the ground. Mr. Alvord said because there are underground utilities in that area. Mr. Sotnik also stated that the area where the planters were installed was totally paved when they were installed. He said that the bituminous concrete was later removed from the areas around where the planters currently are located.

- b. Highland Avenue
Mr. Frazier said that he would have the planting plan developed prior to the next Tree Advisory Committee meeting.
- c. Fort Point Street
Mr. Sotnik said that he has received a price quote from Almstead Tree for the English Oaks and they will be \$1200 per tree. Mr. Viteretto said that he had contacted other nurseries and received price quotes of approximately \$800 per tree for a slightly smaller size which would still accommodate the area. Mr. Alvord said that he would like the project to move forward because the visual aspect is going to make a huge impact, but that spending \$40,000 on just this project will wipe out the remaining balance in the current fiscal year planting budget and a large portion of what will be available in the budget for next fiscal year. He requested that the subcommittee look into an alternative species for cost control prior to next month's Tree Advisory meeting.

5. INFORMATION:

- a. CL&P 2013 Trimming Permit
Mr. Alvord said that the annual CL&P trimming permit has been issued and posted to the City's website. Mr. Sotnik provided an overview of the areas that will be trimmed this year.
- b. Tree City USA Bulletin No. 36
Mr. Alvord distributed.
- c. Arbor Day March/April 2013
Mr. Alvord distributed.

6. ARBOR DAY PLANNING AT JEFFERSON MAGNET SCHOOL

Mr. Alvord said that there was a meeting held on February 22, 2013, and that it was a

good meeting. He said that the location of where the tree will be planted was determined at the meeting. He also stated that the species of tree was selected. He said that the next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2013, and that the school will have the program completed for that meeting.

7. SECOND TREE FESTIVAL PLANNING SESSION

Mr. Alvord said that the second meeting was held on February 15, 2013, and that the attendance was low, but that conceptually, some good planning was done. He said that the next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2013, at the Gallagher Mansion and that he has sent e-mails encouraging everyone to attend. Mr. Frazier said that he has been approached by some tree related businesses that have requested to conduct financial transactions during the Festival. He said that he had told them "no," but that he would bring it up once again with the Tree Advisory Committee, so that it is discussed. Ms. MacLeod said that it goes against the nature of the Festival. After further discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that financial transactions would not be allowed at the Festival. Mr. Alvord said that he had contacted the Director of Public Works in Weston and that they may be interested in participating in the Tree Festival.

8. REPORT - STRATEGIC TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Viteretto said that last month's activity was getting the TD Green Streets grant prepared and mailed and that they will now be summarizing how to implement the plan if the money is granted. Mr. Frazier said that there has been a nice cross section of community input. Ms. MacLeod reported on the UPS grant and said that it would be an add on to the TD Green Streets grant and that she would be submitting it through Keep Norwalk Beautiful and that the grant is for \$5,000.00.

9. DISCUSSION - NTA ACTIVITIES AND RECRUITING

Mr. Landau said that they have been working on recruiting and the Tree Festival. He said this summer they will be working on doing the signage at the Arboretum and Matthews Park. Mr. Alvord requested that the Tree Alliance do some research on firms that have the technology to do GPS tree inventories.

10. NEW BUSINESS

No discussion.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FRAZIER MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.