



Tree Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday January 9th 2023 at 5:00 PM
City Hall Conference Room A213

In Attendance:

John Easley	City of Noblesville – Urban Forester
Ashley Mulis	Board Member - President
Jennifer Roberts	Board Member – Noblesville Common Council Liaison & Co-President
Leslie Taljaard	Board Member – Resident

City Department Liaisons:

Christina Miller	Street Department
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Guests:

Becky Heck	Blatchley Nature Study Club
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Quorum? YES

Call to order at 5:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Non-Reverting Tree Fund Balance \$6,299.09

Guest from Blatchley Nature Study Club (BNS)

Becky Heck

Becky shared a brochure about the club and discussed the urban forestry connections between BNS and the Tree board. Historic information show that members of the club planted trees in Forest Park and other areas of the city/county as well as located outstanding trees at historical sites in the county. She welcomed us to attend a meeting and to consider joining the club.

Old Business:

Board changes:

Some changes have occurred to the tree board since our last meeting. Sandy Lynch, who had served two terms and was the board secretary, stepped down from her position in December. Fred Pfau, who had served on the Tree Board for approximately 2 years also resigned from the board. The board currently has three members and is actively seeking new members.

Since Ashley has been president for 2 years she agreed to continue to be president if someone could be a co-president with her to assist with board duties. Jennifer volunteered to do this and to also take notes/minutes for the meetings.

MOTION by Leslie

Move to nominate Jennifer Roberts as co-president with Ashley Mulis where Jennifer will also serve as the secretary.

Seconded by John and carried without dissent.

Ordinance updates & discussion:

John has his final edits ready to be shared with city legal. Please send any additional comments to him so he can complete that process.

Discussion about proposed distance from street tree to driveway being 20 feet. If depth of tree lawn is greater than the ordinance requires then this distance could potentially be lessened. However, having a greater tree lawn width is rare and the primary concern is about adequate root space to prevent pavement heaving.

Discussion about importance of collaboration between departments and the urban forester to minimize maintenance of items in the right of way. The UF board's goal is to minimize city maintenance issues. We are achieving it by increasing collaboration of the UF board with city departments.

Discussion about creating a homeowner's guide for street trees in Noblesville.

Discussion about Preservation text in Unified Development Ordinance. Ordinance is planned to be updated soon.

MOTION by Leslie

Move to add this text to the updated draft ordinance, in the 'planting locations' item U: "Within 10 feet of a streetlight/lamp post."

Seconded by Ashley and carried without dissent.

Fundraising/Tree planting grants discussion (Item 1 on agenda):

Tree board job is outreach & education with a goal of increasing tree canopy per national standard.

Arbor Day Planning:

Possible site for Arbor Day event at Boys & Girls club. Jennifer to set up meeting with B&GC staff to discuss opportunities. Ashley to attend.

Outreach Opportunities:

Meet the Urban Forester lunch & learn scheduled for February 8th at Street Dept. (11:30-2pm)

Planning Commission potential presentation has been approved by city in concept. Update previous presentation made to council & coordinate with city to schedule presentation. Coordinate with Tim Stottlemeyer for his part of presentation.

Discussion of developing a community grant for tree planting on private property to increase overall canopy. Fishers has a neighborhood planting grant. Tree board has been received requests from private businesses to collaborate on tree planting using their employees for a community volunteer day. There are many questions to answer about this but in concept the idea could be used to have an annual Arbor Day event that involves private citizen support of the overall canopy.

New Business:

- Urban Forester Report – provided by UF & included here.
- Education and Outreach Committee Report – summary regarding board changes at beginning of minutes.

Open Floor

No comments.

Close of meeting was complete at 6:55PM.

MOTION by John

Move to adjourn

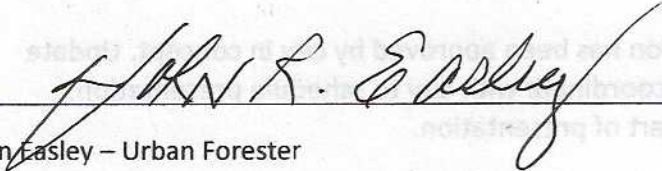
Seconded by Leslie and carried without dissent.

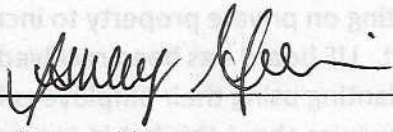
Next Tree Board meeting will be on:

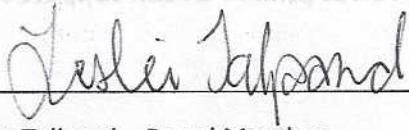
Monday February 6, 2023

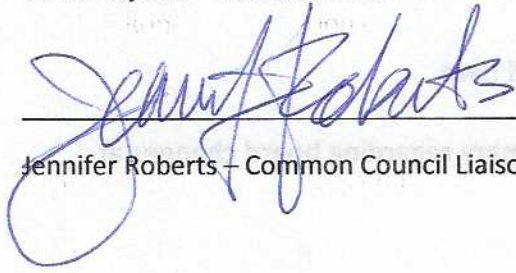
Noblesville City Hall Room A213.

Approved by:


_____ on 02/06/2023
John Fasley – Urban Forester


_____ on 02/06/2023
Ashley Mulis - President


_____ on 02/06/2023
Leslie Taljaard – Board Member


_____ on 02/06/2023
Jennifer Roberts – Common Council Liaison, Co-President & Secretary

Urban Forester Report

Noblesville Tree Board Meeting: January 9, 2023

1. Updated and reviewed the City of Noblesville Tree Ordinance (both proposal document and codified versions). Will submit to City legal soon if no further comments from the Tree Board.
2. Tree City USA application was submitted on time.
3. Tree City USA Growth Award application submitted on time.
4. Reviewed and recommended Urban Forester Technician job description.
5. Have overseen Street Tree Clearance Pruning in several NW area subdivisions (including Oakmont) with many compliments to the tree crew, and no complaints. 764 trees pruned.
6. I am still currently working through the details for the CUFA Grant final report and request for release of grant funds. Street Dept Superintendent requests waiting until after replacement trees have been installed (likely to be done in-house).
7. I rode with the new IDNR Urban Forester, Jacob Roos, to inspect 10-12 of the CUFA Grant trees that we planted. A total of 3/80 CUFA Grant associated trees have not survived to date.
8. I assisted the Street Department in salting roads and plowing snow through the winter storm of December 22-24, 2022.
9. I have received an unusually high number of phone calls/emails concerned that we have forgotten to grind stumps out of removed trees. I passed along the work orders numbers for those jobs and let residents know that we typically concentrate on Subdivision Street Tree Clearance Pruning on the Winter months but rest assured that we will get back to stump removal by March 1 at the latest.
10. I composed a spreadsheet for tree planting requests for Spring 2023. It currently shows 229 tree planting requests. Since this is beyond the budgeted amount for 2023, I have composed a letter to send out to the effected residents asking them to verify in writing that they definitely want the requested trees in the locations indicated, and also that they are willing to fill waterbags around new street trees through this coming Summer.
11. I composed a list of recipients for the Lunch and Learn flyer. Snail mail letters have already gone out, and email recipients were notified this past Friday.