



Tree Board Meeting
Monday February 6th 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 5:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Non-Reverting Tree Fund Balance \$6,299.09

Old Business:

Tree Planting Grant Program:

The idea of the annual tree planting grant program for private properties has been well received by the mayor’s office. It could be a way to promote several goals that the city has. The mayor’s office has asked for more details for what the Tree Board has in mind for such a program. The Tree Board will meet to discuss the framework for the program at our regularly scheduled committee meeting next week.

Some items to consider: how to secure funding for the program (partner with businesses, etc.); getting a commitment for funding secured in advance of the city budget deadline in case a city match is available; potentially creating another survey/questionnaire using the contacts from the previous survey to find neighborhoods/contacts who might be interested in obtaining a grant; outreach is an important part of this process; starting small with a potential project in the spring of 2024.

Update of Progress of Ordinance Review:

The refresh of the tree board ordinance is currently being reviewed by city legal. Having the ordinance updated is important since it has not been updated since the city changed its status (to a second class city). Having the ordinance updated by the Urban Forester and city legal to ensure it reflects the current practices in the city is an accomplishment that has been a couple of years in the making.

Arbor Day: Tree Planting & Proclamation:

The 2023 Arbor Day celebration was discussed regarding the date & location for the planting & proclamation. The intent is to have it in a location that is more visible than it has been in recent years and to schedule it to attract residents to attend. The decision for date & location has been tabled for now. Additional coordination with the city & parks department is needed to determine a location for tree planting and if the event should occur during Earth Day week or on Arbor Day.

Tree Board Presentation to Planning Commission (PC):

The presentation, which will be similar to the one presented to the city council, needs to be drafted and sent to the city for review. The potential of making the presentation as part of Earth Month on 4/17/23 was discussed. The purpose of the presentation is to share: the importance of the urban forest; how the Tree Board is working to increase the tree canopy; the impact of tree maintenance issues on the city (re: cost/staff capacity); the updated street tree species list.

New Business:

- UDO Revision and Tree Preservation
 - The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) landscape standards may soon be reviewed for items related to the urban tree canopy. The city would be interested in hearing more from the Tree Board about how the standards might be modified to reflect the overall value of preserved healthy trees. This is another item to be discussed at the upcoming committee meeting where a draft of ideas to consider will be prepared for consideration.
- Sandy Lynch Service Recognition
 - Sandy was on the Tree board for two full terms plus one year. The board would like to recognize her service by planting a tree, as it has done with other past members. Ashley will contact Sandy to determine a tree species & location.
- Urban Forester Report – provided by UF (John) & included here.

Open Floor

Discussion of UF lunch & learn happening this week on 2/7. Approximately 20 attendees are anticipated for this first educational opportunity to engage landscape professionals working on street trees in Noblesville.

Close of meeting was complete at 6:45PM.

MOTION by Leslie

Move to adjourn.

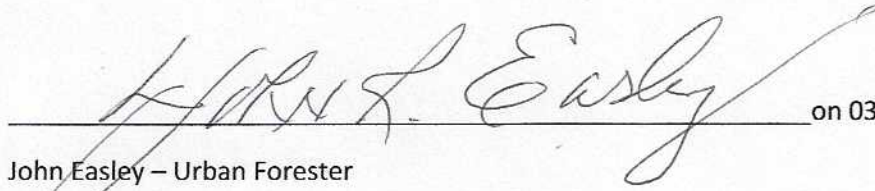
Seconded by John and carried without dissent.

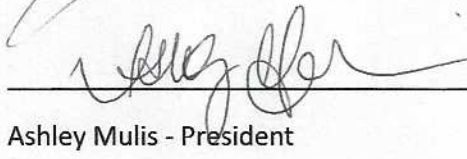
The next Tree board meeting will be on:

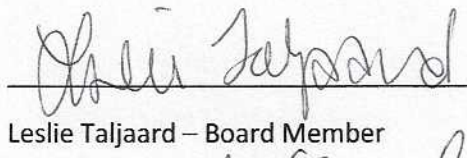
Monday March 6, 2023 at 5pm in Noblesville City Hall Room A213.

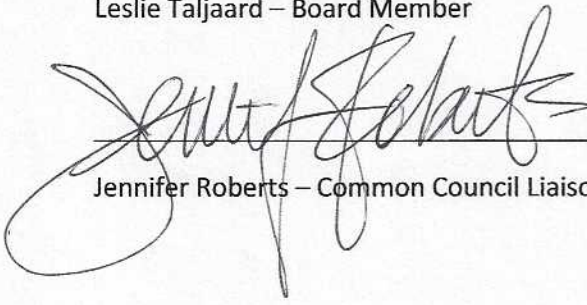
The next Tree Board Committee meeting will be at Noble Coffee on Monday 2/13/23 at 3pm.

Approved by:


_____ on 03/06/2023
John Easley – Urban Forester


_____ on 03/06/2023
Ashley Mulis - President


_____ on 03/06/2023
Leslie Taljaard – Board Member


_____ on 03/06/2023
Jennifer Roberts – Common Council Liaison, Co-President & Secretary

TREE

Urban Forester Report
 Noblesville Tree Board Meeting: February 6, 2023

1. Updated and reviewed the City of Noblesville Tree Ordinance (both proposal document and codified versions) have been submitted to Deputy Mayor Matt Light for consideration through City Legal.
2. Tree City USA Growth Award was awarded to us for 2022.
3. Reviewed and recommended Urban Forester Technician job description.
4. Have overseen Street Tree Clearance Pruning in several SE area subdivisions with many compliments to the tree crew, and no complaints. About 520 trees pruned.
5. 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).
6. I attended the Indiana Arborist Association Annual Conference, Jan 24-26 in Indianapolis.
7. I composed a spreadsheet for tree planting requests for Spring 2023. It currently shows 211 tree planting requests. Since this is beyond the budgeted amount for 2023. I sent out letters to all residents requesting trees to be planted. I have 57 remaining tree sites that have not been confirmed by the residents at this point, and about 20 removed from the list because they do not want a tree(s) planted there.
8. I have put together 3 Powerpoint presentations, and all the handouts for use at the Lunch & Learn with the Urban Forester for this Wednesday. Expecting about 20 in attendance, 7 are in house staff, and 2 from the Tree Board.

GOALS FOR URBAN FORESTRY 2023

I have set goals to achieve for this year regarding functions of the Urban Forestry Section:

ITEM	CURRENT TURN AROUND	NEW GOAL
Tree Removals	7 months	5 months
Tree Pruning	7 months	5 months
Stump Grinding	12 months	6 months
Storm Damage	8 hours	8 hours
Inspection response	48 hours	24 hours
Tree Planting	#150/yr	#200/yr
Neighborhood pruning	5 years	5 years
Updating GIS Tree Inventory	8 years	3 years
Licensing of businesses	never	Starting 2023
Updating of publications/manuals/lists	variable	As needed/annually reviewed