



Tree Board Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> 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:**

John South	Potential board member
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Quorum? YES

**Call to order at 5:05 PM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Non-Reverting Tree Fund Balance \$6,299.09**

**Guest introduction:**

John South is a retired Agriculture engineer from the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). He is a former City of Noblesville tree board member and was the secretary. He has an interest in conservation.

**Old Business:**

*Tree Planting Grant Program:*

The meeting with the corporate partner who wishes to help us fund a tree planting program went well. The city plans to match funds (in 2024) donated by the corporate partner. The next step is for the Tree Board to create a draft proposal for the grant program. The city will review the draft proposal prior to our sending it to the corporate partner for their review. Our goal is to keep the project small and simple the first time using 20 trees maximum to be granted to those who apply. Other notes regarding the program which is still in a draft form:

- The program will prioritize neighbors who are willing to do the work themselves.
  - The goal is to prioritize neighborhoods & not for profits.
- The work will occur on private property but for areas that face the street (not in back yards out of public view).
- There will be a preference for larger trees (like maples & oaks) over understory trees (like redbuds) since the larger trees typically have a longer life span than understory trees.
- The program will tie into the goal of increasing tree canopy in Noblesville via the following:
  - Education & outreach
  - Tree selection guidelines

- Tree planting guidelines
- There is a possibility of partnering with the SWCD for tree purchases by homeowners.
- Annual Arbor Day tree planting project (grant will be a way to naturally create locations for Arbor Day projects that will be guided by the community rather than the Tree Board needing to find places to plant trees)

*Arbor Day: Tree Planting & Proclamation:*

The 2023 Arbor Day celebration was discussed regarding the date & location for the planting & proclamation.

Ashley & Jennifer recently met with Boys & Girls Club (B&GC) staff to discuss the potential of an Arbor Day tree planting at their site at 1700 Conner Street in Noblesville. They have a large tree-less kickball field south of the building and just north of Conner Street where they could line the edges with trees (6 to 8 total). According to the B&GC maintenance person, the soil in the area where construction occurred (to build their current facility) is not great for planting and will need to be amended. The soil in the area near the south end of the property near Conner Street right of way (where no, or minimal construction occurred) is great and will not need amendment. The B&GC board of directors and students will be invited to plant the trees with the UF Board in an after-school event. The trees will be 15-18gallon sizes. The B&GC maintenance staff can pre-dig the holes which will be 10 feet off the fence and within the grass-lined field. To keep the trees protected from the play activity that occurs on this field, the trees will need to have some fence (like a snow fence) around them. It was discussed that students at the B&GC could participate in advance by creating some signs to post onto these fences to educate students of all ages about the need to protect the trees as they grow and tree education in general.

*Tree Board Presentation to Planning Commission (PC):*

This PC presentation is on hold until after the 'lunch & learn' (described below) occurs.

A lunch & learn presentation (L&L presentation) event was recently suggested to Ashley by the city as a way for the Urban Forestry Board to further communicate our canopy goals with city departments (engineering, planning, parks) and to understand each department's perspective regarding city trees.

To introduce this idea, Ashley summarized her work with iTree for the canopy study she did (in her spare time) for the City of Noblesville. She used 550 data points, 131 of which were trees or shrubs giving an approximate tree cover of 23.82% with a margin of error of 1.82% +/- . (Side note: the canopy goal that many cities reference now is 40%. The city of Goshen, IN has a 45% canopy goal by 2045 and has a current canopy of approximately 22%)

One question we should strive to answer in the L&L presentation is "why is it important to keep big trees?" and "how do trees, especially large ones, help with the health of a city?" (physical, mental, etc.)

An item for discussion should also be city processes and how they impact existing trees, our goals for increasing canopy and the potential outcomes.

At our next Education & Outreach Committee meeting on 3/13/23 we will plan to outline and discuss ideas for the L&L presentation and will ultimately use it to inform the Plan Commission presentation that we will do following this process. The hope is to integrate, among the city departments, the understanding of trees and their value as city infrastructure with the necessity of traditional infrastructure. To do this, we must understand each other's perspectives, which is a key goal for the L&L presentation discussion. It will be a combination of presentation and open discussion.

### **New Business:**

- Summary of Lunch & Learn results:
  - Next time have an IT person there through the entire presentation to solve IT issues.
  - Do this once per year at a minimum.
  - Can do more often if we can confirm an audience who wants it.
  
- UDO Revision and Tree Preservation
  - Lesley & Ashley had a meeting with the city (engineering & planning) recently regarding how trees may be part of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) update. The L&L presentation will be a continuation of this discussion.
  
- Urban Forester Report – provided by UF (John) & included here.
  - The price of tree stock has increased and is difficult to get.
  - On item 2 of his UF report, the city paid for the trees and companies will be doing installations only. The trees will arrive in the next couple of weeks and will be stored at a city facility.
  
- Committee Report
  - The Education & Outreach committee met last month to discuss the recommendations for UDO updates regarding tree preservation, the proposed grant for neighborhood tree planting and the plan commission presentation. All are in progress.

### **Open Floor**

No discussion.

Close of meeting was complete at 6:18 PM.

**MOTION** by Leslie

Move to adjourn.

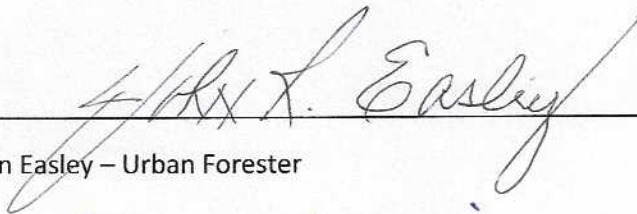
*Seconded by John and carried without dissent.*

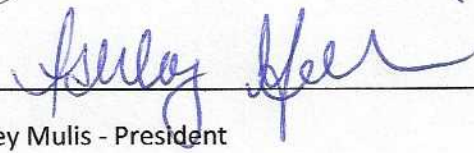
The next Tree Board meeting will be on:


**Monday April 10, 2023 at 5pm** in Noblesville City Hall Room A213.

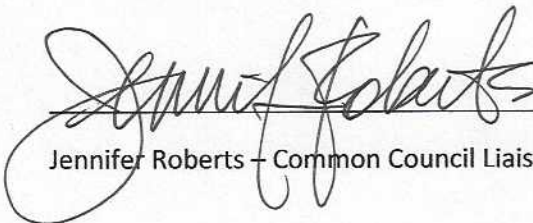
The next Tree Board Committee meetings will be at 3pm at Noble Coffee on Monday 3/13/23 & 4/17/23.

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ on 04/10/2023  
John Easley – Urban Forester

  
\_\_\_\_\_ on 04/10/2023  
Ashley Mulis - President

  
\_\_\_\_\_ on 04/10/2023  
Leslie Taljaard – Board Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_ on 04/10/2023  
Jennifer Roberts – Common Council Liaison, Co-President & Secretary

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

1. Verified 170 new street trees to be planted in Noblesville for Spring 2023. Additionally, three dead CUFA trees will be replaced.
2. Requests for proposals have been sent out to 5 potential contractors to hire for planting the new trees for 2023: Mainscape, Savatree, JayCrew, Rangel Landscaping, and Brightview. Proposals should be received by March 15<sup>th</sup>, and the selected vendor will be submitted to the Mayor's office by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Planting to begin by April 1. Watering bags are required on all new tree installations.
3. Tree City USA Award was awarded to the City of Noblesville for 2022.
4. Christina Miller has begun the continuation of GIS updating of the Noblesville Tree Inventory for 2023.
5. Have overseen Street Tree Clearance Pruning in several SE area subdivisions with many compliments to the tree crew, and no complaints. About 560 trees pruned.
6. The tree crew has completed tree removals as needed for sidewalk repairs in the Howe Place (30) and Stony Ridge subdivisions (10). There are about 46 remaining in Woods and Greens at Prairie Crossing, and 20 remaining at Morse Pointe.

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