



Tree Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday August 7th 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
Chad Lindemood	Board Member – Resident

City Department Liaisons:

Christina Miller	Street Department
Andrew Rodewald	Engineering Department

Guests: None

Quorum? YES

Call to order at 5:04 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Non-Reverting Tree Fund Balance \$4,227.34

Note:

Tim Stottlemyer, who has attended many tree board meetings and provided us with professional expertise as well as planting day support over the years, recently moved to the private sector. We thank him for his service to the Noblesville Tree Board and wish him well.

Thanks to Andrew Rodewald for joining us today to continue representation from City Engineering. The tree board benefits from city departments joining us and we appreciate your time and support.

Old Business:

Tree Planting Grant Program:

Planning for this continues. The draft documents have been prepared & reviewed by the tree board. The next steps are:

1. The city to review the program documents.
2. Developing the metrics (point system) to prioritize projects for awarding grants. (this is a topic for next committee meeting)

UDO Revision and Tree Preservation/iTree:

Previously, there was a discussion about what items the tree board could contribute (if a conversation with city agencies occurs about potential Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) update). The goal is to come up with ideas that could solve current problems regarding tree planting & maintenance as well as increase efficiency of city operations. A list of items will be compiled by this board and presented to city staff (in a lunchtime, collaborative meeting) for further discussion.

This meeting was put on hold until it was a more favorable time for all parties. A more favorable meeting date could be this fall (potentially early November) or winter (potentially January 2024). Ashley to email Matt Light to coordinate & schedule.

2024 Budget Discussion:

A letter of support regarding the urban forestry efforts was sent to the Mayor's office for consideration during the 2024 budget discussions/allocations. The budget discussions are ongoing. The 2024 city budget is anticipated to be finalized by October.

New Business:

- TreeCampus USA
 - For more information about the Arbor Day Tree Campus program see this link: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/tree-campus-k-12/>
 - There has been communication between the tree board and the high school to inform them of this program which could involve the Conservation Club.
 - Possible discussions with other campuses in Noblesville can be discussed in a future education & outreach committee meeting.
- Urban Forester Report – provided by UF (John) & provided here.
 - Also, John gave kudos to Christina for continuing to update the city's GIS inventory. This is a continual process and keeps the inventory as current as possible without the need to hire an outside consultant.
- Committee Report
 - The Education & Outreach committee met last month and prepared draft documents for the Tree Planting Grant program general requirements. Work will continue at our next committee meeting.

Open Floor

Ashley mentioned a program for tree-related community opportunities that she's involved/familiar with. It is "Saluting Branches" and is an organization that honors American service men & women by organizing volunteer tree & landscape care for the property dedicated to our veterans. The 9th annual Saluting Branches Day of Service is 9/20/2023 and there is more info at: <https://www.salutingbranches.org/>

Close of meeting was complete at 6:25 PM.

MOTION by Leslie

Move to adjourn.

Seconded by John and carried without dissent.

The next Urban Forestry board meeting will be on:

Monday September 11th, 2023 at 5pm in Noblesville City Hall Room A213.


There will be board meetings each month for the rest of the year.

The next committee meeting dates are: August 14th & September 18th at 3pm at the Noblesville Street Dept.

Approved by:

_____ on 9/11/2023

John Easley – Urban Forester


_____ on 9/11/2023


Ashley Mulis - President


_____ on 9/11/2023

Leslie Taljaard – Board Member

_____ on 9/11/2023

Chad Lindemood – Board Member


_____ on 9/11/2023

Jennifer Roberts – Common Council Liaison, Co-President & Secretary

Urban Forester Report
 Noblesville Tree Board Meeting: August 7, 2023

1. Engineering Project: Chapel Woods: 6 stumps remain and some pruning. This should be completed by the end of next week.
2. Engineering Project: Old Town (South of Cherry St, North of Pleasant Street, between 10th Street and 19th Streets) 12 trees still to be removed w/stumps and LOTS OF PRUNING. Will likely not move further until 2024. No brick sidewalks involved, just concrete. Possible panels along 10th with stamped brick pattern (if so, more trees will be involved, but trying to keep to a minimum).
3. I have met with HOA leadership regarding street trees and ordinance requirements: Merion of Noblesville and Marilyn Ridge of Noblesville. Also discussed with Wellington NE HOA about street tree plantings in front of common area parks. They must work out a plan to refill water bags before any new trees will be installed.
4. The Monthly email info sheet to HOA and Property Management group representatives with information regarding street trees: August-Information on tree leaf defoliation and continued problem with volcano mulch causing dieback.
5. Here is the documentation from the City which requires residents to maintain the City ROW in front of their property. I have had a handful of folks pushing back against this. Here is that information located in the Noblesville City Code, Title IX, General Regulations, Chapter 93, Section 5:

§ 93.05 WEEDS, GRASS AND DEBRIS.

(A) Any owner of real estate located within the city or the tenant residing therein shall be required to cut high weeds and grass, and remove debris and rubbish from said real estate within five days after receiving written notice of such requirement from the planning department. Property owners shall also be responsible to cut high weeds and grass, and remove debris and rubbish from the area between the streets and sidewalks adjacent to the real estate.

(D) Grass, excluding ornamental grass, shall not exceed six inches in height.

GOALS FOR URBAN FORESTRY 2023

I have set goals to achieve for this year regarding functions of the Urban Forestry Section as below. Current turn around time impacted by 7 months of Engineering Projects and High wind on June 29th.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>CURRENT TURN AROUND</u>	<u>NEW GOAL</u>
Tree Removals	14 months	5 months
Tree Pruning	14 months	5 months
Stump Grinding	19 months	6 months
Storm Damage	8 hours	8 hours
Inspection response	24 hours	24 hours
Tree Planting	#150/yr	#200/yr
Neighborhood pruning	5 years	5 years
Updating GIS Tree Inventory	Continual process	3 years
Licensing of businesses	never	Starting 2023
Updating of publications/manuals/lists	variable	As needed/annually reviewed