

Tree Advisory and Education Board Minutes 9/11/2024

Attendees: Linda Grandstaff, Sam Bonvisutto, Rita Stevens, Patrick Costellos, David Sangree

The meeting started at 6:01 pm via Zoom.

Following a motion by David, seconded by Rita, the minutes of the 8/14/2024 meeting were approved as submitted.

There was an update on TAEB's participation at the Community Festival which was used to promote the Fall Community Canopy Tree Giveaway. There were lots of children's activities and questions from adults. As a side note, a spotted lantern fly was identified by one of the children when it landed on one of the volunteers. One of the most common questions related to how to handle concerns about a potentially hazardous tree on neighbor's property. The board discussed re-publishing a flyer on the Forestry Department's web page that addresses the question.

The board discussed the Tree Giveaway. All trees were signed up for by 11-11:30 am after a slight delay in the site going live at 9 am. Trees will be delivered to the city on 10/18. The pickup will be on 10/19 from 10 am to noon at Bernice Pyke park. There will be a waiting list for any trees that are not claimed. One of the trees will be used for the planting and care demonstration. Linda will coordinate volunteers and make signs for the different trees. An alphabetical list will be divided among volunteers checking participants in for their tree pickup. Jill Bartolotta of the city's Sustainability program expressed an interest in participating.

The board will seek additional funding to increase the number of trees in the spring and fall giveaways to 200. Matt will coordinate the grant request with John Story. Not: subsequent to the meeting, Matt reported that he had discussed funding with Michelle Nochta of Planning and the city is planning to fund again next year. Additional data is needed to support an increase.

The Forestry Department update included that stump grinding would be starting and should cover all remaining stumps. Serviceberries planted in the spring suffered transplant shock and will be monitored. The recent storm/tornado damage is being assessed. Fall tree planting under a Cuyahoga County grant will include 200 trees in equity zones. There was discussion of the large trees that are being removed at Lakewood Park Playground after suffering from prior construction damage. Stumps will be ground and there will be replanting.

There was a brief discussion of the conclusion of the Tree Contest with the Lakewood Observer.

Merl Park is slated for renovation. Michelle Nochta is planning the effort. Linda will reach out to discuss tree impact and protection.

The Cuyahoga Tree Summit is scheduled for 9/27 and Matt and Linda plan to participate and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Linda Grandstaff, chair/secretary