

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024

- Kaleb Dorweiler, Hillsdale City Forester called the Shade Tree meeting to order at 3:11 PM.
- Board members present: Gary Stachowicz, JoAnne Miller, Sara Stewart, and Jason Sellers. Jason Blake, DPS Director, and Elaine Tillinger were unable to attend. A motion was made by Jason S to excuse Jason B and Elaine from the meeting. Motion was seconded by Gary.
- Approval of minutes: JoAnne asked for clarification regarding county tree maintenance on shared streets from the November meeting minutes. Gary provided background regarding this agreement. Sara recommended revisiting the agreement every 5 years to evaluate the agreement's effectiveness. A motion was made by Gary to accept the minutes of the August 2nd, 2023 meeting. Motion was seconded by Jason.
- Public comments: none
- Old business:
 - New committee members: Kaleb welcomed two new voting members to the committee, Sara Stewart and JoAnne Miller.
 - BPU line clearance: Kaleb gave information on the BPU transmission clearance project beginning in February. Committee members were able to see bid prices from the included BPU meeting agenda item.

- Historic tree ordinance: Kaleb discussed his work on outlining criteria for a historic tree ordinance to protect large city trees from ‘frivolous removal.’
- Road reconstruction project on W St. Joe Street was discussed. Committee expressed support and opposition to the curb being put in along the road, wondering where fairgoers would park. Kaleb mentioned that the main reason is to improve drainage, but there will be an added benefit of protecting the crabapple trees from soil compaction.

- New business:
 - Tree planting: Kaleb gave an overview of the 2024 spring tree plantings (approximately 20). He mentioned the budget constraints of this year. Sara suggested a volunteer tree planting event could be a good way to maximize funds while allowing trees to be planted. JoAnne mentioned the GOAL program at Hillsdale College could be interested in helping with a tree planting event.
 - Jason brought up the topic of a memorial tree planting for Bud. Kaleb said he would get working on this and noted Jason’s request for a tulip poplar.
 - JoAnne asked about tree planting in the new section of Oak Grove Cemetery. Gary explained that we cannot plant trees until the roads are laid out, so that trees are not cut for road installation.
 - Tree Restitution Fund: A resolution was passed 4-0 by the committee to get the terms of the tree restitution fund in writing to avoid misuse of funds in the future. Sara stated that the city should outline specific things that will be included in the tree planting program, such as payment for: equipment, trees, wages, etc.

- Adjournment: a motion was made at 4:05pm by JoAnne to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Jason.