



Tree Board of Peculiar

Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2013, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers – 250 S. Main Street

- 1) Call to Order
5:36pm by Parks Director Musteen
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call

Appointed Members Present	Staff Representation Present
Andrew Boston	Nathan Musteen
Brian Boyd	
- 4) Old Business – None
- 5) New Business
 - A) Meeting Schedule (monthly or quarterly) / day & time of the week
 - i) To meet Tree City USA standards, staff recommends an every other month meeting schedule and then move to a quarterly schedule once the initial projects are underway
 - ii) A meeting time of 5:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month, the next meeting being in February 2014
 - B) Review of Official Tree Board Duties
 - i) Park Director Musteen reviewed Tree Board By-Laws other towns of our size and population that have obtained the Tree City USA status and adapted them to draft the Peculiar Tree Board By-Laws that include the duties of the board as directed by the tree maintenance ordinance.
 - ii) No vote is necessary in order to allow other members not present to review the by-laws.
 - iii) A review of the By-Laws were read through and discussed. Director Musteen volunteered to do the minutes for each meeting as the meetings are recorded anyway. Director Musteen recommended that an appointed member of the board be the Tree Board President and not staff.
 - C) Tree Planting Project
 - i) Director Musteen passed out a tree planting project plan for this spring. 125 tree saplings have been ordered from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The map indicates the trail built from the charity run in November and the connectors via mowing to connect the entire trail system. Practice soccer fields and parking lot fencing is discussed as a temporary plan at 66 Acre Park.

Along Shari Drive, there is a portion designated for the tree planting project. The planting project is a 3 fold process. 1) it gives a project to include in our Tree City USA application. 2) we start a nursery of species that we can plant in that location knowing that they all will not survive and 3) we can transplant them as they grow into specifically marked locations for a future buffer zone between the park and Shari Drive.

The idea is that the project become something that trail and park users can enjoy and we can sign the project indicating the Peculiar Tree Board sponsored or planted this nursery. Member Boston indicated that he liked the location. Director Musteen said he chose the location based on the Park Master Plan from several years ago and this location would not affect the master plan. Member Boston asked about funding the project. Director Musteen talked about the tree and park beautification line item in the budget for such projects and the tree board.

Further details of tree planting specifications, security of the project, the trail and project details were discussed.



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The upcoming Arbor Day event at Shull Elementary was discussed and more details of how to enhance that event using tree saplings from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

D) Peculiar Trees

- i) Director Musteen introduced a program called “Peculiar Trees”. This is a program in which residents can submit a picture of a “Peculiar” tree along with some historical information. Residents submit their information to the Parks Department, the Tree Board reviews it and if selected, the tree owner receives a certificate from the Tree Board and a picture of their tree is posted on a specific webpage on the City website. There is potential to publish the story in the local newspapers much like Belton’s Champion Trees.
- ii) Director Musteen will begin looking for unique trees to begin posting, possibly the Mayor’s Christmas tree. Discussion ensued...

E) Discussion for upcoming topics & trainings

i) Tree City USA – 2014 Application

- (1) Director Musteen reminded members that we have been discussing the Tree City USA for the past year. We have all standards in place, but we need to have some time and scheduled meetings in place prior to applying this fall. We passed the tree maintenance code last July. We have \$2500 budgeted in the Park Fund for the Community Forestry program/budget along with any additional tree work and a portion of Director Musteen’s salary as an arborist. We did an Arbor Day observance event last year and plan to do another similar event. Discussion continued on the Arbor Day event.

ii) Memorial Tree Program

- (1) Director Musteen presented the idea of a Memorial Tree Program and that this is a program in which he has been tasked as one of his yearly goals by the Mayor. Members discussed the details of a similar program he began in Raymore.
- (2) Programs specifics such as locations, parks, sizes and guarantees were discussed.
- (3) Director Musteen will bring this idea to a future meeting for further discussion.

6) Other Business

Director Musteen mentioned that the Mayor would be interested in selecting an official City Tree. This would be something to discuss at a future meeting. Members discussed the idea of selecting an “odd” species. Director Musteen mentioned that we would bring recommendations to the Board of Alderman for an official vote.

Another idea for a future event would be some training on pruning and tree care. Director Musteen mentioned the idea of bringing in a tree professional who trains tree boards. This type of training is purchased but worth the money.

Director Musteen said that he would send out a packet before the next meeting reminding members to review the by-laws. The “Peculiar Trees” program would be implemented and for members to send any ideas or pictures if they have any.

7) Adjournment –

- A) A motion by Director Musteen to adjourn was seconded by Member Boston.
- B) Voice vote by all in attendance was unanimous.
- C) Meeting was officially adjourned at 6:13pm

These Minutes approved on: March 24, 2014