

TREE COMMISSION

March 15, 2021

The March 15, 2021 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the park maintenance building in Harrison Smith Park by Sara Lou Binau, Chairman. Tree Commission members present were Sara Lou Binau, Judi Lambrite, Bill Thornton, and John Walker. Roxie Karg was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; Aaron Korte; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the January 19, 2021 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

The replacement of trees in the downtown area was again discussed. Mr. Niederkohr noted that there are seventy-four (74) street tree locations in the downtown area, not including trees located near the courthouse, and seventy (70) trees are needed to address this project. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that Mr. Bill Sowers, Sowers Tree Service, will be providing quotes for this project as a whole project, by the city block, and per tree for the City's review. Possible funding for this project was also discussed with a community grant and/or the Geary Fund being possible sources for partial funding. Mrs. Binau stated that the City was awarded funding from the 2019 Winter Fantasy of Lights and is not eligible to apply for funding again within a five (5) year period. Mrs. Binau noted that a Winter Fantasy of Lights representative has recommended that the next time the City applies for funding that multiple departments within the City apply for funding together.

Mr. Niederkohr reported on the recent removal of a large maple tree located in the tree lawn near 329 South Sandusky Avenue. The tree had split and was in need of immediate removal.

Mr. Niederkohr also reported that Mr. Bill Sowers, Sowers Tree Service, has been asked to look at a tree located at 216 North Eighth Street as the health of the tree is questionable and it is causing the sidewalk to heap up.

Mr. Niederkohr further reported that the large pine tree that was located at the main entrance of Harrison Smith Park was dying and has been removed. A tree will be planted in this area that will grow tall and narrow as the flagpole is nearby and there is an electric outlet that was located at the base of the tree that was removed.

The possibility of holding an Arbor Day Program at Duck Pond Park with children from Upper Sandusky and St. Peter's Schools in attendance was discussed. The schools will be contacted regarding this activity.

Mr. Niederkohr indicated that Mr. Bruce Rowe, Parks Department employee, is currently virtually attending the Freshman class of the Tree Commission Academy. Mrs. Natalie Mouser and Mr. Andy Wieging, Parks Department employees, previously completed the Freshman class, and all of these employees will together be attending the Sophomore class in the future.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Sara Lou Binau, Chairman