**Shade Tree Commission**

**Minutes: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**

1. **Roll Call:**
	1. **Present**: Members: Greg Ament, Brian Tarbert, Jim Jenkins, Pam Dobos, Michele DeCarlo (ALT) Municipality: Tim Roney, Ammie Faunce Council Liaisons: Tim Moury,
	2. **Absent**: Elizabeth Webb, Dave Espinar (Council)
2. **Approval of Minutes:** April 20, 2022 - Motion: Jenkins; Second: Tarbert - Passed
3. **Municipality Liaison:** Ammie Faunce, Environmental Engineer for the Municipality of Bethel Park, will be taking on the position of Municipal Liaison. Tim Roney will stay on for the year
4. **Tree Inventory program – Treekeeper** by Davey Trees explained by Brian Tarbert.
	1. Treekeeper program has been approved by Council.
	2. Website system is set up to add, replace, remove trees.
	3. Those who should be given access to make changes should include Stacy Graf, Ammie Faunce, Sue Dolinar, Greg Ament, and Brian Tarbet.
	4. If needed, Davey will come over and inservice Municipality employees about how to work the program.
	5. Public can access it through the Municipality website link
	6. There are trees that haven’t been entered – should we have field trips to add trees?
	7. Trees have been removed by the Public Works Department
5. **Council:** From Covid monies, Council approved $10,000 for this year and $10,000 next year to plant trees. If it isn’t used, it will be rolled over to the following year. There is a 5-year window to use the money. Tim Moury suggested:
	1. A Fall neighborhood/elementary school tree planting event in October @ Miner’s Park. Several dead or diseased trees have been removed there. At 6:30 on August 24th walk Miner’s Park with the neighbors to determine where trees might be planted. Jim Jenkins will send the inventory from Lake Forest about tree availability.
	2. Spring planting: Pine Tree park - off Horning Road and N Street for the next spring planting. Arbor Day – tree planting in small parks – in coordination with an elementary school. Earth Day will be Saturday April 22nd 2023, and Friday April 28th 2023 is Arbor Day.
6. **Tree City, USA** – We need $60,000 of work dedicated to maintaining trees ($2 per capita used for trees) to apply.
	1. According to Ammie, we can begin application process as of September 1. Ammie has the monetary information about municipal hours, volunteer hours, and student hours used for tree work in the last year. Mayor Allen has made the proclamation for Arbor Day 2022.
	2. Benefit- municipality placard designating Bethel Park as a Tree City USA and grants that can be applied for – marketing
	3. Municipality will continue to log hours that employees spend on “tree” work, including the Arbor Day planting. This is important for the Tree City application and continued annual membership
7. **Other Grants** Continue to research what is available? How can we tap into Tree Pittsburgh’s information? DCED funnels Allegheny county money to Tree Pittsburgh
8. **Updates**
	1. Peter Page Park – 3-5 million capacity in dam/retention/ pond **2023** Major Flood Project; Bike trails also incorporated; possible outdoor amphitheater
	2. Beagle Drive property **2024**
		1. Area off Beagle Dr behind trolley line donated to the municipality
		2. Plans include a water retention pond, walking trail, some walking bridges over the creek, and green space
		3. Possibly a few parking spaces off Beagle Dr.
	3. New possible projects in the works
		1. Enhance entrance way to Bethel along Rte 88 entrance - Street Scape between Connor Road and Sheetz – Neighborhood meetings – focus on façade and mobility – ex. sidewalks 5 million dollar project 5-10 year strategy
		2. Drake Loop – commitment to turn it into a walking trail; 2/3 Bethel, 1/3 USC
		3. 20 acres at Simmons for trails – 2023 – apply for grant money
9. **Communications:** On Website and/or Social Media: tree code enforcement information about ordinance and pictures/diagrams for dimensions to meet Code enforcement ordinance – Tim Moury suggested that the municipality Communications team work on this to clear up any misunderstandings.
10. **Future Meetings 2022-2023**
	1. November 16, 2022
	2. January 18, 2023
	3. March 15, 2023
	4. April 19, 2023
	5. August 16, 2023
	6. November 15, 2023
11. **Adjournment:** Motion by Jenkins; seconded by Tarbert. Passed