



BETHEL PARK SHADE TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 6:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Brian Tarbert.

A. Roll Call

Present: Members: Gregg Ament, Jim Jenkins, Brian Tarbert, Pam Dobos, Elizabeth Albright, Brian Joos (ALT), Machel DeCarlo (ALT); Municipality: Ammie Faunce, Nick Callas; Council Liaison: Joe Janosik

Absent: Members: Nancy Jean Morrison (ALT), Barry Christenson, Dave Espinar, Tim Moury

B. Approval of Minutes – August 16, 2023 Motion: Tarbert, second – Dobos; passed

C. Old Business

1. Community Day Booth was held on September 9th. Ten Trees raffled off. Arborist answered questions. Thank you to Ammie for everything that she did to make this a wonderful success. The hand print Tree was a success. We recommend displaying it somewhere or at least taking a picture of it for social media.
2. Fall Tree Tenders Training was held on October 7th. 8 participants; possibility of a spring one, depending on grant money.

D. New Business

1. Social media – Nick Callas new tech/social media employee – The municipality is moving everything to one spot from .net to .gov. Nick asked us to check the site right now for what we want to put into the new link. We mentioned that the regulations for the zoning requirement for trees in the way of Garbage, snow removal trucks could be enhanced with the pictures and diagrams that we have on the current site. The recommended trees list should be there. The trees inventory is also there for the public to see. If there is anything that we would like to promote or publicize to the community Email: ncallas@bethelparkpa.gov
2. Municipality renewed Tree Inventory Software with Davey Resource Group (DRG). A group from Municipality, led by Ammie, went to Neil Armstrong to inventory saplings. Public Works is using the inventory to update removed and pruned trees. Possibly at a future meeting, Tom Miller come to update us on how Public Works is using/updating this inventory.

3. Tree City USA 2023 application has been submitted to Arbor Day Foundation – we should hear back in February – thus far, 50 trees planted; gave away 160 trees, pruned 400 trees, removed 30 trees, volunteer hours \$69,000 worth of work.
 4. Galway Drive –Medial strip of grass and trees: public works removed 7 trees. Brian Tarbert assessed the current area and created a plan for replacement – 5 trees as per our recommended trees; possibly - \$800.00 – looking for Tree Vitalize grant.
 5. Tree Tenders Pruning Class Spring/Summer 2024 – next step: organize work parties to maintain what we have. We have a list of people who have taken the course and contact information. Possibly use our meetings to invite the Tree Tender volunteers to discuss possibilities for small borough park care. The volunteers would need more training than the pruning class.
 6. Propose dates for 2024 meetings. Earth Day will be Monday April 22, and Arbor Day will be Friday April 26.
 7. Possible future site walk Throughs – Elm Tree Park – storm drain work for 2024 – no tree work for 2024; Molly Hill Tree – at end of Val Street and end of Santa Fe – consider buffer planting; Shamrock – walk through – this is delinquent property assumed by municipality, but there is no access to it.
 8. \$30,000 remains from Tree Vitalize grant to plant the Splash Park
 9. Suggestion to create community Design Standards as evident on neighboring communities web pages; Does the municipal code have Design Standards:, ex. buffer zones, creating ordinances for tree planting etc. for new buildings, lots, commercial. ex. every new home must have a tree. Work with Zoning or ordinances to create irrigation plans and landscaping plans. Gregg will meet with Ammie to create a presentation for a future municipal committee meeting.
- E. Future Meeting Dates- 2024 - 6:30 in Caucus Room (behind Council Chambers)**
1. January 17, 2024
 2. March 13, 2024
 3. April 17, 2024
 4. August 14, 2024
 5. November 13, 2024
- F. Adjournment Motion: Jenkins, Second: Tarbert; passed**