



BETHEL PARK SHADE TREE COMMISSION Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 6:30 PM

Meeting Called to Order

A. Roll Call

Present: Members: Gregg Ament, Brian Tarbert, Pam Dobos, Brian Joos (ALT), Machel DeCarlo (ALT); NancyJean Morrison(ALT); Municipality: Ammie Faunce, Nick Callas; Council Liaison: Jim Jenkins; School Board: Barry Christenson
Absent: Council Liaison: Dave Espinar, Member: Elizabeth Albright

B. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2023

Amended: D.9 -Gregg and Brian Joos

C. Old Business

- a. Nick Callas – Update about the website being down and the community site is being moved to “.gov”. In the future we will have the officers videotape a summary of the meeting highlights for broadcasting. Nick would also like to publicize our highlights in the Community “minute.”
- b. Tree City USA 2023 Application submitted to Arbor Day Foundation. It has been through 2 reviews already and only needs one more review.

D. New Business

- a. We have 60 trees to plant from Tree Vitalize this year -2024.
 - i. Arbor Day 2024 Planting – Mollyhill Park(by the Washington Junction T Station) At the end of Santa Fe and Val Streets – Friday, April 26 – funding Tree Vitalize – 20 trees. A site walk through scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 10 @ 1:30 pm to mark the exact locations for the trees. Hopefully, some residents can join us to give us feedback on the plans. We will wait until after the walk through to determine whether we will invite the kindergarten students from Lincoln Elementary to join us with mulching since we are unsure about the access to the park and whether students can be transported there. Ammie indicated that the plan for planting the trees must be ready by Feb. 16th. There was also some discussion about creating a pollinator garden in one of the areas which would include native plants. This would only have to be mowed every couple of years.

- ii. Park Ave Parking Lot Project – Update - 11 Green Giant Arborvitae will be planted on one side of new parking lot as a barrier for the house that is beside the new parking lot.
- iii. Splash Park Landscaping – Gateway engineers have created the plan for the Splash Pad landscaping to include these trees: Autumn Fire, Blue Point Juniper, Purple Leaf Plum, and Red Oak. Shrubbery areas will include Grasses, Dogwood, Phlox, and Holly. Comments were made about possible plantings later above the Splash Pad on the hillside where the grass mats have been placed. Overall, there were positive comments about the landscaping plans made by Gateway Engineers.
- iv. Tree Vitalize - Fall Planting Proposals
 - 1. *Galway Drive* – 5 trees on strip of land in middle of road where the borough removed trees
 - 2. *Milford Fire Station*- The Shade Tree recommends a polinator garden with native plants instead of trees – possibly with a gazebo – maybe a Boy Scout project – can still drop in some trees if needed. This would alleviate having to cut and maintain that area.
 - 3. *Oak Tree Park* – 3 trees and again possible, wild flowers. There was some discussion about planting trees behind the outfield fence area, both there and at *Millenium*.
- b. Possible Shade Tree Event in 2025 - Elm Tree Park –retention pond 18 inches at deep. This is dependent on the timely completion of the upgrades.
- c. Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance – Greg Ament and Brian Joos recommend moving forward with this idea after their meeting with Ammie – working with zoning commission and Mr. Harbison – Planner for Bethel Park as per our discussion in November 2023 (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).

E. Future Meeting Dates - 2024

Saturday Feb. 10 @ 1:30 for Mollyhill Park walk through

- i. March 13, 2024
- ii. April 17, 2024
- iii. August 14, 2024
- iv. November 13, 2024

F. Adjournment