

MINUTES - URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
May 19, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.
Blue Island Public Library

1. *Present:* Commissioners: Perry Recker, Dan Lynch, Val Kehoe, Frances Blouin, Barbara Recker. Director of Public Works, Ken Stachulak.
2. Meeting was called to Order at 7:08 pm.
3. Minutes of April 14, 2011. Re: Item 4.B Commissioner Kehoe stated that the last sentence should read: The plantings at city hall have been designed to have three seasons of color interest. Minutes of April 14, 2011 with such change were approved on motion by Commissioner Lynch.
4. *Organizational Policy, Structure, Business*

A. *Forestry Division Report.*

Director Stachulak reported that Public Works crews cut dozens of sick and split trees in the parkway throughout town. They are now trimming trees and plan to continue the work block by block. Residents are requesting the types of trees they can plant in their parkway. Director Stachulak passed around a list from the previous Board's guidelines and Commissioner P. Recker did the same with spreadsheet list that included recommended species from the City of Chicago as well as the older Blue Island list. Comm. Kehoe reviewed the latter list and was able to condense the list to make it more manageable and current.

Director Stachulak will have the older list scanned and sent out via email, and Commissioner Recker will email a copy of the newer, edited list as well. Lists include size and species. There was additional discussion of how to further edit the list to ensure a healthy species variety with appropriate sizes, and to add letterhead-logos when ready for wider public distribution. The cost of a new tree varies, but one that is of a sturdier level of maturity (3+ inches caliper, 8-12 ft tall) will often run \$300 to \$500 (delivered and planted 'retail.')

Director Stachulak reported on an incident in which a resident's ineptitude or carelessness in cutting roots resulted in parkway trees falling over. A fence (of the resident) was damaged and an additional and unnecessary burden of work was created for the PW department. He hopes through education, continued communication and enforcement of our tree ordinance that this behavior can be prevented in the future. Board members encouraged him to levy fines in this situation.

Director Stachulak reported that there is a current list of about 24 trees on city parkways that need to be cut own because of disease and years of neglect. He also announced that the Tree City Award will be announced at the City Council Meeting of May 24th, and that Commissioners are invited to join PW staff who worked on the application for pizza at Beggar's Pizza after the meeting. This year's application will include application for the Growth Award Blue Island needs to complete activities that add up to 10 points.

5. *Committee Reports*

A. *Installation and Planting*

Commissioner Kehoe requested that PW water plants at city hall until they are fully mature and can survive the elements on their own. She also reported that PW painted all the planters and a crew of volunteers completed filling them with plants on May 15th—despite the inclement weather.

She also indicated that we should be ready for tree inventory in June or July. This will earn points toward the Growth Award, and we will need at least 20 people to assist in the completion of the inventory.

Director Stachulak and Commissioner Recker reported on the planting of a Patriot Elm at Veterans Memorial School on May 6th in celebration of Arbor Day. Quinn Landscaping donated the tree. It was a bit larger than other trees we have planted and already looks quite mature and established. School staff have assumed responsibility for watering the tree.

Commissioner Kehoe stated she wants to restore the flowers at 119th and Vincennes and would like to see the Veterans Triangle plans implemented as soon as possible. Existing dried out and dead bushes and plant grasses should be removed. Director Stachulak reported that there is not enough money available at this time for planting all the flowers and grasses that site will require.

Work on and plans for enhancement of the Olde Western Avenue entrance site were also discussed.

B. *Community Education*

Commissioner Lynch reported that the statement on the water bill was submitted and appeared, as was a brief announcement in the Forum Newspaper. He also reported that he is plans to continue with the plan of organizing presentations or a table at TGIF Picnics. He would like the UFB banner to display there and hopes to distribute information and talk with the community.

C. *Urban farming and gardening: No report*

D. *By-Laws and ordinance review and revision: No report*

6. There was no New Business to discuss.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.