

Minutes – Blue Island Forestry Board
April 14, 2011 - 7:00 pm.

1. Present: Ken Stachulak, Commissioners: Dan Lynch, Christy Buckner Cheadle, Sandy Quinn, Val Kehoe, Perry Recker, Rod Reinhart, Fran Blouin, Barbara Recker.
New volunteer commissioners-to-be: Sheryl Short, Aaron Goldberg.
Guest: Mark Dunteman

2. Minutes of March 24, 2011 were approved on motion by Commissioner Buckner-Cheatle.

3. Organizational Policy, Structure Business:

A. K. Stachulak reported on the Tree Award information: Tree City USA signs will be posted at city hall and other locations throughout town. May 24th there will be a photo opportunity ...at City Council meeting. ReTree City USA Growth Award: there are 10 categories and we are half-way completed. The Tree City website posts the point system for evaluation and it states what it means to be a Tree City USA. Grants are available...80% of forestry grants were given to towns that are tree cities. State (Illinois Dept. of?) is having classes to help with tree grants. Moraine Valley is a tree campus-USA. Since they have a campus in Blue Island, Ken suggested investigating whether trees could be donated for Moraine and planted on their Blue Island campus.

4. Committee Reports:

A. Maintenance and Enhancement:

K. Stachulak reported: TIFF money is being used to restore the berm at 119th. Spring cleaning was completed in several areas. Old Western Entrance berm: topped Prairie grasses, turned soil and put down mulch and cut bushes. Seed to be planted at diamond. Val will work with the city on the continuation of this project. Crap apple trees need maintenance on the North and South of Old Western. Veteran's Triangle-the city workers will remove and locate bushes and place them at the BI Video location.

B. Installation and Planting:

V. Kehoe reported: A tree will be planted at Veterans school for Arbor Day. Containers on Western will be planted on May 15 and students from Eisenhower will help. End of May there will be coloring shrubs in bloom at city hall. The plantings at city hall have been designed to have three seasons of color interest.

C. Volunteer Recruitment:

The chamber of commerce will request volunteers for the forestry board in their newsletter
Also discussed combining "Friends of the board" with

D. By laws and Ordinance.

review and revision: deferred until next winter

E. Farming and Gardening.

B. Recker and S. Quinn went to Lincoln Park Zoo and conservatory and came back with many ideas that they hope to implement in Blue Island. They were particularly enthusiastic about raised beds that were set up at children's heights to encourage the young to participate in gardening. Sandy reported on her experiment with sprouting acorns.

F. Community Education and Outreach:

D. Lynch reported: Articles will be written in the Forum. Because of deadline last month the article was not written by the committee but inserted by the newspaper. The committee does not want this to happen again. They are also writing about enforcing the tree maintenance ordinance in the water bill to try to prevent residents from chopping the tops of trees in the parkway. They will attend TGIF Picnics

every Friday in the summer to distribute information about the board, forestry projects and the state of our trees in Blue Island.

5. New Business.

A. Tree Inventory.

Mark Duntemann reported: Renee Hillabrand had 40-50 education bulletins available. First come first serve. There will be not more printed.

Re Inventory project. There may be more grant money available to complete inventory. He proposes using free software- ITree Streets. Plan is to sample trees in block segments and plug in data. Software can be used to calculate or project storm water, cleaning air, carbon storage and pollution impacts and benefits. It could also be used to summarize Blue Island's energy and cooling savings. He indicated that a 6% sample inventory could represent our tree coverage and mix with only ts a 5% margin of error. Minimum input would be 10 pieces of information.

We will need a day of training for species identification and how to determine the remaining information needed: diameter, condition and location to name a few. To assist in data collection trees are predefined on the I-Tree Streets.

Ash trees are the most difficult to inventory because there are 2400 (?) and 500 are dead with the ash disease. Ash inventory alone is a summer long project. We should have 60 species in our town.

We will need 10 teams of one to two people and we need to designate a Saturday. We should have 20-24 people to train.

The inventory is our tool to know what we have before we come up with a plan. We could have a training by third week or end of May, and the larger inventory will likely take three months or more.

B. Other new business.

R. Reinhardt reported that a Day of Prayer is scheduled for June 19th at Water Reclamation Station. The topic will be speaking out against human activity's negative effect on the environment. It will have both a religious and secular theme.

The Arbor Day Proclamation will be restated for 2011.

Board Member Changes:

Resignations: Mike Sklom, Bob Gronko

Also Frances Blouin resigning as voting member

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Next meeting dates: May 19th, 2011; June 16, 2011; July 21, 2011; August 18, 20011; Sept. 15, 2011.