

Blue Island Urban Forestry Board

Meeting Notes: First Meeting

March 18, 2010 7 pm

Board Room, B.I. Public Library

Present: Bob Gronko, Fran Blouin, Julie Sklom, Mike Sklom, Nancy Thompson, Perry Recker, Tammy Johnson

Advisors and guests: Ken Stachulak, Dept. of Public Works; Jason Berry, Community Development Dept.

I. Overview/Background: Blue Island Forestry Board

Commissioner Recker welcomed everyone and gave a brief summary of events, conditions and drivers leading up to the reformation of the Board. His comments were supplemented with current information from Ken Stachulak.

Ordinance 94-301, passed by City Council in August of 1994, created the first Board. It ceased to function for various reasons by about 2002. Sometime early in 2008, Recker and Stachulak met with Jim Deiters to discuss trees and plants outside the Library. Recker was interested in starting a tree and community garden committee as a response to climate change and had learned from Jodi Prout in the Community Development department that forming such a committee would help Blue Island qualify for certification with Tree City, USA. Such recognition would be helpful for raising funds through grants, etc., in the future. Recker presented his ideas to the Public Works Committee, where he learned about the existence of the Ordinance.

After obtaining and studying the ordinance, Recker began to speak with previous members such as Sandy Quinn, James Deiters, Sr. Bob Manthei, and others about the possibility of reforming the Board. Quinn and Deiters explained the role of Treekeepers training and certification. Quinn, Recker, Sklom and Treekeeper Jim DeHorn toured the Quinn tree farm together. Quinn and Recker also met with Stachulak at the Public Works office to learn more about policies and procedures he was following with respect to tree care the day to day operations of the Forestry Division of Public Works.

K. Stachulak also summarized for the Board current city procedures for pruning, mulching, bark chipping, and leaf collecting in the fall. Smaller pruning and trimming needs are handled in house, while larger pruning and removal jobs are farmed/contracted out. Stachulak also talked about problems being experienced with people topping or severely pruning trees and the lack of any fine schedule or clear permit and enforcement procedures -- which illustrated the importance of public education and awareness functions of the Board.

Recker reported on his plan to contact students at the H.S. to participate in the development of a tree inventory and planting events for community service credits.

II. Member Introductions

Attendees took turns introducing themselves and sharing their interest in and experience with gardens and tree care. Certified Treekeepers were recognized. Nancy Thompson shared pictures of her work around her house and on the berm at 119th and Vincennes. These were inspiring and encouraging. Stachulak S. reaffirmed his intention to provide improved services, such as water, for the maintenance of this site. Fran B. and Julie S. shared their experiences with the planting and watering of the flower planters along Western Avenue.

III. Policy and Planning or Organizational and Structural Issues

- A. It was agreed by those present that Meetings should follow Roberts Rules of order and that any necessary policies for more detailed “Rules of Procedure” (for regular and special meetings) would be developed in the future.
- B. Jason Berry clarified that this Board, as a public body, will need to follow the requirements of the Open/Public Meetings Act, governing the publication of Agendas and Minutes, the observance of quorums for holding meetings and making official decisions, etc.
- C. Stachulak reported that the official appointment of the Board was on the agenda for the next City Council meeting on March 23, 2010, and as many prospective appointees as possible were encouraged to attend.
- D. Stachulak briefly described some key operations of the Department of Public Works’ Urban Forestry Division. He noted that City expenditures for leaf collecting and tree pruning and removal will easily meet the Tree City USA certification requirements of \$2 per capita (number of city residents per last census.) Stachulak’s title is Superintendent of Public Works, a position he has held for approximately 2 years.
- E. It was noted that the UFB ordinance calls for the appointment of an ***Urban Forestry Manager*** (Section V.B. Duties, p.4-5.) Stachulak’s opinion was that a certified Treekeeper sitting on the Board would make the most appropriate candidate for this position. Perry reported that it was not clear from his reading of the ordinance how this appointment was to be made. It was agreed that further discussion of such an appointment would be conducted at a future meeting, and a decision of how to proceed would be made at that time.
- F. It was noted that the Forestry Board would be expected to act in cooperation and consultation, as appropriate, with the following offices, departments, or agencies of the City of Blue Island:
 - City Council;
 - the Mayor & Mayor’s Office;
 - Community Development Department (Prout, Berry, et al);
 - Municipal Services Committee of Council (to whom Superintendent of Public Works reports);
 - Community Development Committee of Council (whom the Ordinance specifies as the court of appeal for fines and rulings of the Urban Forestry Manager);
 - Community Relations Department (Mary Poulsen).
- G. A more detailed review of the Ordinance, Arboricultural Specifications Manual, and other documents was tabled for a future meeting.
- H. Election/Appointment of Officers was postponed until the next official meeting.

IV. Prospective action projects and programs

- A. An ad hoc working committee will attempt to identify a prominent public space or easement for an inaugural landscaping and beautification project that will include the planting of at least one tree and help fulfill the requirements for the TreeCity application. Perry will convene these meetings, and pursue the fulfillment of the Tree City USA certification requirements.

- B. The idea of establishing a new tree farm or nursery and stocking it with seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation, was proposed and briefly discussed. Stachulak, Perry and others had previously discussed the possibility of obtaining a section of the Coal Gas remediation site for this purpose. This idea will be further investigated, reported on and discussed at future meetings.
 - C. The need for a plan for providing water and or watering of trees and plants at any such nursery or other planting sites was discussed; along with an idea Stachulak had for converting the city's salt-spreading trucks and equipment to a brine-spray system, which could possibly be rinsed and used during the spring, summer and fall months for water distribution.
- V. Date and location of next meeting was set for 7 pm, April 15, 2010 in the Library (Board Room or Lower Level Meeting room TBD.)

Drafted by
Perry Recker,
Submitted to Board 4/15/2010

In the BIPL at REF 328.1 ROB. An In Brief version can be ordered for \$7.00 from Amazon.

Eventually a bylaw should be adopted that reads similar to this:

Article [#] Parliamentary Authority

"The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Board may adopt."

See RONR [10th ed.], p. 15, l. 17-25; p. 561-62, 569. "RONR" is the standard abbreviation parliamentarians use to cite Henry M. Robert III and others, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th ed. (Cambridge, Mass.: Perseus Publishing, 2000). The standard citation to particular pages and lines is "RONR (10th ed. [for 'edition'], p. [for 'page' or 'pages'], l. [for 'line' or 'lines'])."

For more information see <http://www.robertsrules.com/speech.html>.