

Minutes - Blue Island Urban Forestry Board
September 16, 2010 – 7:00pm
Board Room, Blue Island Public Library

Present: Voting members: Perry Recker, Mike Sklom, Val Kehoe, Fran Blouin, Tammy Johnson, Dan Lynch

Non-voting: Sandy Quinn

City advisor: Ken Stachulak

Guests: Emily Erickson, Kim Becker

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:03. Minutes of Sept. 16th moved to approved by Mike Sklom and seconded by Dan Lynch; approved.

II. Organizational Policy & Structure

- A. Tree City application status-is not complete but progressing nicely
- B. Introduction of Emily Erickson-she lives at 2400 block of Oak Street and wants trees planted on street and interested in recommendations and procedure. Kehoe introduced to the committee the “City of Chicago-Urban Tree Planting List” which is a catalog of recommended trees for urban streets and organized in a coded structure. Erickson agreed to put this list on a excel sheet for the UFB use.
- C. Kim Becker lives at the corner of Union and Greenwood where two large Maple trees with split trunks were recently taken down. She thanked the board and Public Works for the prompt action and asked a number of questions about use of chips and replanting of flowers and grasses in areas where trees were removed. She was encouraged to proceed with her planting plans.
- D. Forestry Division Action –Ken Stachulak reporting.
City now has a new snorkel that is making it possible to cut damaged and diseased trees in the parkway. Ken explained his system of a progressive work order which makes it efficient to maintain and cut down the parkway trees as needed. He and the committee are pleased with the progress of Blue Island tree control.

III. Action Programs and Projects

- A. *City hall* planting was a success. Kehoe created the design and ordered the plants. 16-18 service people pulled out the old plants and transplanted many plants in other locations. 12 volunteers completed the planting within three hours. The lilac trees are experiencing stress but everyone expects them to do well. Public works is watering this location and the Vermont Street plantings on regular basis.
- B. *BI video location* completed as well as possible. Soil is poor. Public works removed about 6 inches of rock and replaced with rich soil to hopefully enable the new and old plants to survive.
- C. *Gregory & Burr Oak Small Berm*- Area has been cleaned and weeded with a few new plants
- D. *119th Vincennes Berm*. Three blue spruces died and needed to be removed. Kehoe requested that the committee use the winter months to plan designs for three specific

areas in Blue Island: 119th Vincennes Berm; the old Veteran's Memorial Triangle; Vermont Train Station. Discussion was held on the general needs for each area and Board members agreed that plans were necessary.

- E. *Seedlings project a DDEHS-P.* Recker and Quinn are interested in working with high school on planting seedlings-either plants or trees or both. They agreed that it may be very experimental and will keep the committee informed of progress.
- F. *Proposal for 2400 block of Oak-* This was discussed earlier when Emily Erikson was introduced.
- G. It was brought to the attention of the Board that Fred Bilotto wants to purchase a tree to plant in Blue Island. Possible locations and purpose for such a tree were discussed.
- H. Quinn raised the idea for memorial trees that would be planted to honor people in our town that have died. She agreed to bring in a report for next month with ideas and location for future tree plantings at a "Tree Memory Park". Several possible locations were discussed, including the Gregory-Vermont-Rexford triangle, but a final decision was not made.
- I. *Western Avenue plan with Christy Webber* discussion was held on the status of the streetscape planting plans for Western Avenue and it was not clear if plans exist. Kehoe and Ken agreed to investigate the progress of and the existence of the plans. Discussion was also held on the bump-outs on Union and High Street.
- J. *Block by block development* P. Recker has begun to build set of spreadsheets with a block by block set of addresses that could be used for creation of an inventory of existing trees and a record of newly planted ones.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2010.

IV. Dan Lynch moved to adjourn. Adjourned by 8:13

Minutes respectfully submitted, Frances K. Blouin