

**Minutes - Blue Island Forestry Board**  
**October 21, 2010 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Room, Blue Island Public Library**

Present: Voting Members: Perry Recker, Dan Lynch, Val Kehoe  
Non-voting Members: Julie Sklom, Sandy Quinn, Bob Manthei, Barbara Recker  
City Advisers: Ken Stachulak  
Guests: Chris Buckner, Emily Erickson

The meeting was called to order by President Recker at 7:05 p.m. The September 2010 minutes were amended by Sandy Quinn. The last two sentences of 4g will be removed from the minutes. Quinn moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Dan Lynch.

***Organizational Policy & Structure***

- A. Stachulak reported that there is no new money.
- B. Tree City application is almost completed, and the deadline is December. Stachulak indicated that they have been receiving guidance from Homewood as to the wording and structure of the application.
- C. Tree Trimming - Trees were trimmed at Birdsall and Maple with P. Recker's help. Stachulak is trying to respond to all citizen requests, but there are a lot of them and it will take time. He also stated that there is an ordinance that fines homeowners for improperly topping trees. The fine is anywhere from \$100.00 to \$500.00. P. Recker and Public Works crew were at 13412 California where a complaint was received from the homeowner about a tree that needed work. Eventually, the homeowner admitted to trimming the tree himself, which is what caused the problem. **UFB needs to devise a plan to fine people for abuse of trees, but the public needs to be notified of this issue before our plan goes into effect.**

Kehoe suggested that there might be a safety issue involved. If a homeowner incorrectly trims a parkway tree (city property), and the tree branches fall on someone, who is responsible? Parkway is city property.

Kehoe suggested that before a tree is dropped, samples should be tested to see if the tree can be saved. Quinn suggested we have a pamphlet available for homeowners listing the protocol required for tree trimming and/or removal.

- D. New Business - Quinn has a concern that the pipework for gasoline trenching might be disturbing trees. Kehoe said we need to get volunteers for future plantings. Sklom added that we need to have committees to do the planning and then report to the board. P. Recker will put this on the agenda for November.

***Action Programs and Projects***

- A. Emily Erickson met with P. Recker and Mickey at Quinn Nursery. She just decided she would get a parkway tree herself and talk to neighbors next year about a street plan. She is getting a 3" maple tree for \$150.00 delivered. It was suggested that we should advertise this price and see if others may be interested in planting on their parkway. Val

said it would be smarter and nicer looking to mix up the types of trees planted perhaps adding honey locusts and elms with the maples. Another committee idea. Publicity committee needed to promote what is being done. Stachulak said city will help Erickson with the preliminary work, i.e. JULIE.

- B. P. Recker and Quinn met with DDE teacher, Stacy K. and her ecology class. The suggestion from UFB was to do a greenhouse project while the kids were enthusiastic about a recycling effort. Another meeting is needed. Sandy decided she will go ahead with planting acorns on her own since that appears not to be what the DDE kids want to do.
- C. Perennials and grasses were planted at Gregory and Burr Oak, and the berm looks good.
- D. 119th & Vincennes needs maintenance.
- E. **Western & Gregory Triangle:** Kehoe and Stachulak met to examine the site. There are just bushes there now. Kehoe is going to take out the sumac bushes and plant buglia and rugosa roses. These will add good color. The Sumacs can be moved over to Blue Island Video. All of this is a Spring project.
- F. SEPA station grounds - planning should be done over the winter.
- G. Metra Station - same
- H. Western Avenue plan - C. Weber looked over the plans, but Stachulak hasn't heard from her. Weber is thinking of spring.
- I. P. Recker had nothing to report about neighborhood surveys but will try to do each of our addresses and do a spreadsheet for our blocks during the winter. Dan Lynch said this would be good because then we can make notes on how these trees are doing, observing our own part of the city - good grassroots approach to a very large issue.
- J. B. Recker suggested we put a blurb on the water bill giving people information about what UFB is doing. Update information should be put in the paper. P. Recker and Sklom will work on an article.

Next meeting Nov. 18, 2010  
Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.