



Franklin Parks & Recreation

Tree Advisory Committee
Cultural Arts & Recreation Center Conference Room
Thursday, March 8, 2018
5:30 p.m. Regular Committee Meeting

Tree Advisory Committee present: Richard Wertz, Debbie Swinehamer, Jim Crane, Jim Barnett, Meg Jones and Dana Marietta

Staff present: Chip Orner – Director of Parks & Recreation and Jim Farr, City Arborist

1. **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Chip Orner, Director of Parks & Recreation at 5:30pm.

2. **Organization**

a. Introductions: Everyone present gave a brief introduction.

b. Mission & Goals of Tree Advisory Committee: Chip explained the mission & goals of the Tree Advisory Committee formation and what the Park Board and City want to accomplish. One of the first tasks of the committee will be the reestablishment of the city's Tree City USA certification.

c. Selection of Committee Chair & Secretary: Chip opened up for floor for nominations of Committee Chair. Richard Wertz was the unanimous choice for Committee Chair. Chip opened up for the floor for nominations of Secretary. Meg Jones was the unanimous choice for Secretary.

3. **New Business**

a. Tree City USA recertification – Jim Farr, City Arborist

A discussion was held regarding the necessary steps we need to take to reestablish the Tree City USA status for the city. Jim explained the steps and stated that the city far exceeds the necessary per capita spend requirements, which is one of the requirements for Tree City USA. A discussion was also held about the need to schedule an Arbor Day event this spring as this is one of the requirements as well. Saturday, April 28 was discussed as a possible date for such an event to occur at the Franklin Urban Forest, perhaps with an educational component around proper trimming and pruning of trees.

b. City of Franklin Tree Ordinance

A discussion was held about the current city Tree Ordinance and the need to work on updates to present to the City Council for approval. Debbie passed out copies of past Tree Ordinances and suggested that the committee begin work on updating the ordinance this spring. Copies will be made available to committee members for the next meeting to begin this work. Richard asked about any budgeted funds and Chip stated that money for tree care is currently in the Street Department budget as well as the Parks & Cemetery budgets. There are also donation accounts that the Tree Advisory Committee can use for educational purposes of the committee.

4. **Staff Reports**

City Arborist – Jim Farr

Jim gave a rundown of the tree related work that has been accomplished over the last few years by the Street Department. Jim also discussed the need for the City to update the Street Tree Inventory that was completed a few years ago. A discussion was held regarding the need to update the Tree Inventory and how useful this information is in managing the city's tree inventory. Jim suggested we ask a representative from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to a committee meeting to discuss opportunities for grants and other tree related information. The committee agreed.

5. **Public Comments**

None

9. **Tree Advisory Committee Comments**

A discussion was held about a date for the next committee meeting. It was decided to meet on Thursday, April 5 at 5:30pm at the Franklin Cultural Arts & Recreation Center conference room.

10. **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The Committee unanimously approved.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2018 @ 5:30 pm