



Shade Tree and Beautification

March 26, 2024

Commission Meeting

Minutes

3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Matthew T. Starr	Mayor	Absent	
James Brown	Chair	Present	
Brian Ball	City Engineer	Absent	
Colleen Clarkson		Present	
Quetin Platt		Present	
Duane Barber	Board Member	Absent	
Sarah Wagner		Present	
Laura De Leon		Present	
Randy Pursel		Absent	

April Brady/Water Office-Recording Secretary filling in for Judy Isett
Brian Wade-Wade and Gatton Nursery
Jenny Balcomb DeWinter - Park Manager
Zane Mikesell - Engineering Department

MINUTES APPROVAL

February 27, 2024

Minutes will be approved at a later date. Ms. Isett is out for surgery. Sara Wagner stated the she had a correction in the February minutes. It was stated that trees were planted but it was Daffodils.

FINANCIAL REPORT

City Council approved the budget for Shade Tree and we were given \$50,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Jenny Balcomb DeWinter, New Park Manager at Ariel Foundation Park as of December 15, 2023. She stated that all the Events/Planning for 2024 has been done. The first event was around the Solar Eclipse in April. Spring Fling Event at Columbia Elementary is planned for June 22, 2024. Ms. DeWinter stated that they will be hiring a new fulltime employee on April 9, 2024. Ms. DeWinter stated there are future conversations on getting a grounds crew for the park which she would like to do this year. She reported that there is a large scale project that they would like to do and that is Maintenance of the park for 2024.

Mr. Brown stated that there are some Cherry Trees that are a concern at AFP over by the Handicap Boat excess, they have some fungus on them. Brian Wade said that they need removed.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Planting

Mr. Wade stated the Martinsburg Road and Division Street are done.

The ball park at AFP there are 7 Bid John trees that need to be put in.

Ms. Clarkson stated that we had 15 Projects and 6 are done, but most of the trees are planted other than High Point Meadow and at the schools central office.

TCP

TCP-Sarah Wagner stated that there are 19 people that signed up to have trees planted in the tree lawn/yard area and that has been completed.

Grants

Ms. Clarkson stated that there are 17 grants and 14 are remaining. They are smaller projects.

Mr. Brown stated that Scott Zimmerman and himself flagged 66 trees at Hiawatha Park. Mr. Wade will be delivering the trees this week. Starting Monday the KCCC, Building Trades and Landscape Class will be planting the trees. Ms. Clarkson stated that we need to put together a water list for the parks. Ms. Wagner stated that she has her list.

Ms. Clarkson stated that we all have a responsibility to look at the trees around town and if they have a stake or a paper that looks bad then we need to write down the address and we can have Scott Zimmerman look at the tree.

Tree City Banquet: Mr. Brown stated that all he has is Save the Date for the banquet in Worthington on May 9,2024.

Flyers for Water Bills: Mr. Brown said we are going to put Volcano Mulch flyers and Lantern Fly flyers in with the Water bills.

Arbor Day

Ms. DeLeon stated that Arbor Day is April 25, 2024 at Knox County DD at 2pm to 3pm. There are to be 137 students attending. There will be artwork displayed in the hallways. Also the name of the book has been changed to "A Tree can be". Moderan Woodsman Youth Group will be in attendance and they will be donating \$300.00 for trees.

Mr. Brown will contact Wendy's for Frosty coupons for the kids.

Bee City

Harcourt Rd.: Seeds have been planted everywhere. There are still a few cages to be put up. Mr. Platt stated that he would like to put something together with Randy Pursel and John Albert's to come up with a game plan of the areas that they would like us to focus on so that they can come in and spray and then come in with a seed drill and do a quick and easy project.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Platt if there was an invoice for the table at First Friday for Bee City. Mr. Platt stated that he had the invoice and P.O. and would get this paid. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Platt if he had a P.O. for the seeds. Mr. Platt stated that he could use the same P.O., he just needs to get a new quote.

Mr. Brown stated that we were going to put wild flowers in the ditch along Beech Street but with the Police Station coming in and a-round-about at that intersection and have decided to hold off on that idea.

Mr. Brown stated that the money they had planned to use for seeds at the ditch they could buy seeds and have them in packets for Bee City to pass out at First Fridays.

West Prairie-Mr. Platt stated that we are bringing in dirt and putting it in a low lying area which is going to be a bank on the north side of the area. A lot of the topsoil which is the same as clay.

Ms. DeWinter asked if they could use any of the soil at Mavis Island between the rocks because it is starting to erode. Mr. Platt stated that we could look at it but didn't think it would help. Any soil and silt would just wash away. Mr. Platt told Ms. DeWinter that we have some good topsoil she could have, just let him know how much and where she wanted it. Ms. DeWinter said maybe you could save one of the mounds for them. She has a skid steer she could move it with.

Shelmar Park - We have started to clean up all the trees and remove them. Scott Zimmerman will be spraying that for the next couple of years to keep things down and then put the fence back up. We have a new industrial partner in the facility and Area Foundation put a road in on the south side over a big water line. Mr. Brown talked to Mike Prydra and he has a bid for him to go into West Ariel Park. He has a Agricultural head rented and he is going to work along the river taking out the Autumn Olive and honeysuckle and will take out as much as he can in 1day. Mr. Brown would like to plant more trees there. Mr. Prydra's quote includes mulching, grinding up the stump and moving some of the soil for \$1500.00. Commission members agreed on the quote. We have a contract with Scott Zimmerman for \$3000.00 to do invasive removal and would like to increase that to \$4500.00. Mr. Zimmerman does things for the Parks Department and Tom Hinkle and takes care of Shelmar Park and West Ariel Park. This is taken out of Arbor Trust account. Ms. Clarkson made a motion to increase the amount we pay Scott Zimmerman to \$4500.00 and Mike Pryda to \$1500.00. Sarah Wagner 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carries.

The area at Ariel Foundation Park at the pollinator has been overrun with Goldenrod. Mr. Platt has found a way to control it by taking a bush hog at about 6 inches off of the ground and mow the tops off and can be done in August. Mr. Brown and Mr. Platt will get together and plan a schedule to get this done.

Mr. Bown asked Mr. Mikesell if he looked at the tree at Shelmar. Mr. Mikesell stated that he did and he needs to get ahold of Mike Prydra to remove the tree.

TCP - Mr. Brown stated that Buckeye Addition is in the Township and the City has done work there and thought we could plant some trees there. Mr. Brown stated that we might already be at our budget. Ms. Clarkson said they have 19 applications and they usually ask for more than one tree so we are probably close to our limit. She said if the grants are not as full and some of the projects aren't happening yet then maybe there is room in the Grant project. Mr. Brown stated if not this year than next year. Ms. Clarkson said we need to target the West end.

Memorial Trees: Ms. DeWinter asked about the Memorial Trees. Mr. Brown stated that we do plant Memorial Trees and the tree is picked that fits the sight. Mr. Brown said we would work with the AFP Board. Ms. DeWinter said there needs to be a plan on how they would deal with the cost, the size of the tree and where it would be located.

OTHER

ADJOURN

Ms. Clarkson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wagner seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.