

Tree Board

Noblesville, Indiana

January 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

In attendance were Sandy Lynch, Jennifer Roberts, Ashley Mulis, TJ Houghtalen, Kelsey Sears, Patty Johnson, and Matt Light

Meeting called to order by Sandy Lynch at 5:06pm.

- Two changes made to the previous minutes: on the last page of the notes corrected the spelling of trees (previously spelled treas), and on the last page of the notes corrected the location of the next meeting to City Hall Room A213 (previously Street Department). Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes with these changes, Sandy seconded the motion.

Old Business

1. Urban Forester – Vince Baker – no updates to give, not present at the meeting. Matt informed the board that Vince will no longer serve on the board as his position/role is changing in his department.

New Business

1. Introduction & Welcome of new members to the board (Matt): Ashley Mulis & Fred Pfau are two new members joining the board. Ashley has an extensive tree background, and Fred is now retired and has shown a lot of interest in being involved with the city, with particular likings towards trees.
2. Discussion of meeting dates for 2021 Tree Board Meetings (Sandy): For now, we are keeping the same dates that were discussed at the previous meeting. In April we do not have a meeting because of Noblesville Schools Spring Break, but the board discussed looking into using this month to do an outreach event. This is something to continue discussing at future meetings.
3. Officers for Tree Board 2021: Sandy stated that she does not want to continue serving as President, and Kelsey stated that she also does not want to continue serving as Secretary and is vacating her seat on the board due to a soon arrival of her second son. Matt Light & Chris Jensen are looking to replace Kelsey's seat. Sandy encouraged any members interested in seeking a position on the board this year to reach out to Matt, and we will table this for the next meeting when hopefully a full board is present.
4. Documents to update annually and make available as stated by our ordinance (Sandy): Sandy reminded the board that annually we should have the following documents available:
 - a. List of desirable trees that can be planted in the city right of way.
 - b. List of undesirable trees that cannot be planted in public places and the right of ways.

- c. 2021 Master Plan for the care, removal, preservation, pruning, planting, and disposition of street trees. This plan is approved by the Board of Public Works and Safety.
 - d. Annually – submit a budget for inspection, tree care, and maintenance.
5. Discussion of possible Community Grant Program for residents of City of Noblesville (Sandy): Sandy mentioned a grant for neighborhoods that the City of Fishers did. The board should take a look at grants this year and what we can make available in the City of Noblesville for residents who are interested. Sandy also had an idea to consider doing something with the schools (get businesses to donate trees) and plant more trees at the schools. Patty also thought we could look at planting more trees on bigger roads (like Little Chicago/Hazel Dell).
 - a. Ashley encouraged the idea of further looking into grants because when we can be much more successful in our tree planting as a city if we look to where people actually want them.

Open Floor

- Matt shared his screen to show the Tree Board website under the City of Noblesville site (in response to New Business #4). It is located under the Street Department. Matt showed a couple of available documents on the Tree Board site: “Approved Species List” and “Arboricultural Specifications Manual.”
- Ashley asked what sort of data do we have access to of inventory of trees planted and areas that can be planted? Patty discussed some data she pulled, particularly about Oakmont & Whitcomb Ridge, to show an example of what we do have available. The data shows things like plantings, condition of trees, maintenance, etc. Sandy asked if the board could get access to this data. Patty plans to look into this possibility.
 - With this discussion, Ashley also brought the idea of finding slower growing trees to plant around sidewalks as the city does more planting. With slower growing trees, by the time you see sidewalk issues from trees it would be time to replace the sidewalks anyways.
- Sandy brought to the board’s attention that Jennifer had showed her a list that her neighbor had of 100-year-old trees in town. The board discussed the possibility of using this to create a spring event – “the 100-year-old tree trail.” Jennifer thought maybe we could add this outreach event with the fairy trail. This is something to look into for early 2021. Additionally, Jennifer is going to get this list of trees to Patty to add to the city’s tree data.
- Sandy also told the board that there are still no updates for the Tree Steward Program because of the current continued pandemic and the need to still host it all virtually. We all feel it would be best to be able to have the “in-person” parts of the program, so wait and hope to do it late in the summer or in the fall.
- Ashley, Jennifer, and Sandy shared a few online tree resources that could help further the board’s education.
 - Ashley shared about the Indiana Arborist Association Annual Conference. It is all virtual this year, from January 26-February 12. <https://indiana-arborist.org/annual-conference/>
 - Sandy shared about the i-Tree virtual conference on January 21st: <https://mailchi.mp/itreetools/i-tree-update-coming-soon?e=bada396623>
 - Jennifer shared about the National Arbor Day Foundation Website & more specifically the Tree Board University: <https://treeboardu.org/>

Adjourn - Next Meeting is February 1, 2021 at 5:00pm at City Hall Room A213.

- Motion to adjourn at 5:55pm by Sandy.
- Seconded by Kelsey.

These minutes have been prepared by Kelsey Sears and they reflect the notes which were taken during the meeting by Kelsey Sears. Any omissions or errors will be corrected upon notification.

Approved by:

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Sandy Lynch, President	Date
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Kelsey Sears, Secretary	Date
_____	_____
Ashley Mulis, Member	Date
_____	_____
TJ Houghtalen, Member	Date
_____	_____
Fred Pfau, Member	Date
_____	_____
Jennifer Roberts, Member	Date
_____	_____
Matt Light, Deputy Mayor	Date
_____	_____
Patty Johnson, City Commissioner	Date