

**TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Bay Village City Hall
Conference Room
January 14, 2020**

Members Present: Brown, Dios, Ludwig, Patzwahl, Sattler, City Representative Polinski, Council Representative Kelly.

Others Present: Mayor Koomar, Service Director Liskovec, Maeve Kilroy from Sea Scouts, Mr. Gash, Councilman Winzig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mrs. Brown moved to accept the Tree Commission minutes from December as written and it was seconded by Mr. Ludwig. The minutes were approved by all present.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – Maeve Kilroy said she was a member of Sea Scouts and she was wondering if the City had any plans to plant any trees or bushes by Cahoon Creek (Lake Road Bridge project) to keep pollution from entering the creek. She is doing a project at school through the Sea Scouts about erosion.

Service Director Liskovec explained that there will be a trail going north once the bridge project is completed and then they will look at and evaluate the area. Mayor Koomar said ODOT had control of that area until October 31, 2019, so the City did not have the opportunity to do anything at that time. The trails will need to be put in first. The City received, through ODNR, a Coastal Management Access Grant and a request for proposals will be going out in the next two to three weeks to hire a park planning firm for the north side of Lake Road/Cahoon Park along the lakefront and tie it back into the upper park areas. Mr. Patzwahl commented that this is part of a large scale project and will probably take some time.

For the school project, they were looking at planting trees and looking at riparian to help with erosion. Mr. Sattler said the Commission would help explore to see what other projects that she could be involved in.

ARBORIST REPORT – Mr. Polinski reported at the last meeting Bartlett had planned to be done with the inventory by the end of 2019. However that goal was not met due to some

other issues that developed. They have currently fully assessed all street trees. As of last night, he was told that they were totally done with the park tree inventory and will go through the area to do the planting inventory. They are in the final stages and they also were asked to look at a few special areas in the park, especially where the trailhead will be coming into the park. The big wooded areas and stands in the parks were not done. The concern was to do areas that affect public safety, along walking trails, playing fields, etc. Moving forward, the entire inventory will hopefully be completed within the next two weeks and the program will be up and running.

The tree canopy assessment, which was discussed at the last meeting, dropped again to 44.99 percent, which is down from the 2014 assessment where the City was at 50 percent. The City lost a significant number of trees since 2014. Bartlett suggested doing community outreach, education of private tree owners, and pre-development inspection, to just retain the loss of canopy. Other suggestions were ordinance revisions and having a permitting process for removals. The full report will be out in a month from now.

The last tree inventory was done by ACRT in 1997 (20 years ago) and at that time the current number of trees in the right of way was 2,352 trees and 5,432 planting sites. Now there are 3,306 trees. The good news is the entire current inventory had less than 10 percent in need of being removed or pruned. Restocking is moderate and is just keeping the program functioning.

The model is set up as a 3 year plan/cycle: removing the unsafe trees, pruning and maintenance. There are 6-7 trees that need immediate attention, and 180 trees that need risk pruning (deadwood, over-weighted branches). Last year we pruned or had pruned 132 trees and removed 44 dead/hazardous trees. In 2018 we pruned or had pruned 100 trees and removed 38 dead/hazardous trees. Based off the current workload, we are on par and will probably do half the removals this year. This is all in the database.

Mr. Sattler commented that now we know which trees have to come down first and it's documented. Also, having the Tree Inventory Report will give us more information and it gives us the opportunity to be more flexible within the ordinance, such as where are the areas we need to focus on, where are the areas that can be accommodated. We don't want this thing (ordinance) to be anti-development, we don't want it to be so restrictive so the resident does not feel that they do not have control over their own property. But now, knowing these numbers, we can say here is what is happening, this is where we have been, and where we need to get to and how do we get there as well as the technology update with the City's new website to get the information out to the residents. We can be more creative on how to get the information out there.

Mr. Patzwahl commented that now, with these numbers, we were basically "treading water" on City property over the last 20 years and newer trees have less canopy than older trees, but still it shows the majority of canopy loss is on private property.

Mr. Sattler also said that one of the key points of the ordinance is not be overly restrictive, but to start a conversation. It would allow us to get a handle on what the tree companies are doing or developers that are working in the City and plans for potential development.

He asked Councilman Kelly if he would have any updates as far as the ordinance goes. Mr. Kelly said there was a question about asking/requiring the resident regarding tree removal, in regards to tree replacement and the size of the tree. The legal question is can we do that. They also need to talk to the Law Director. Mr. Polinski commented that this is common practice in other cities to either replace the tree or put monies into a “tree bank”.

Mr. Kelly asked if there is value in putting trees in the right of way. Mr. Liskovec said storm water mitigation is a very big part. Mr. Polinski said the practice is to put the largest tree in the planting site (the right tree in the right place). Mr. Polinski said there is a lot of planning that goes on behind the scenes before a tree is planted. If you purchase and plant a tree, it gains value over the course of time and is a very valuable asset. There is a tree benefit calculator that can be found online.

TREE COMMISSION ACADEMY - Mr. Polinski reported that we do not have any members that have gone through the Tree Commission Academy. The State is not currently doing a program right now. However, the State Forester said that we could host our own Tree Commission Academy in Bay Village in September. It is a two-day program. There is also a “short course” for mayors. If anyone is interested, please contact Mr. Polinski.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Sattler mentioned the letter from Mr. Tadych and wanted to extend a heartfelt thanks, both personally and on behalf of the Tree Commission, for his six years of service he gave to the community on the Tree Commission. We would not be where we are today without his guidance, support and visionary leadership. Mr. Sattler read the letter to the Commission.

There being no further items to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Moore

Jackie Moore, Secretary