



Tree Board

Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Acting Chairman John Kottwitz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Minutes:

Board members present were John Kottwitz, Jeff Breedlove, Chris Wasson, Scott Long, Cody Beasley, and Advisor Jim Lee. Others present: City Administrator Tara Strain, City Clerk Marilyn Dick, and Public Works Director Matthew Rusch via phone call speaker.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Minutes:

John Kottwitz led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Minutes:

Scott Long made a motion to elect John Kottwitz as Tree Board Chairman. Jeff Breedlove seconded the motion. On a call by Acting Chairman Kottwitz for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously.

City Administrator Strain reported that terms for Board Members Scott Long and Chris Wasson will expire on June 1, 2025. Both members agreed to serve another three year term if appointed by the Mayor.

ACTION AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

5. REVIEW TREE INVENTORY RFQ

Minutes:

City Administrator Strain led discussion regarding a tree inventory RFQ. The city is planning to budget at least \$300,000 for the next 3-5 years for necessary tree removal. As such, a professional tree inventory needs to be conducted, and the trees prioritized

for a removal plan. The Tree Board reviewed the RFQ document that had been prepared by Administrator Strain, and agreed to move forward with releasing it. Sealed RFQ will be due by 10:00am on May 16, 2025.

6. REVIEW TREE LIST

Minutes:

Discussion was held regarding amending ordinance 1278, section 7, for the approved street tree species. The Board recommended removing the following trees: Large Trees: Green Ash, White Ash; Small Trees: Bradford Pear. The Board recommended adding the following trees: Large Trees: Swamp White Oak, Japanese Zelkova, Disease-Resistant American Elm; Small Trees: Disease-Resistant Dogwood, Amur Maple, Silky Dogwood, Fringe Tree; Evergreen Trees: Short Leaf Pine; Move Golden Rain from Large Tree list to the Small Tree list. Member Scott Long made a motion to recommend the Board of Aldermen amend the Street Tree Species List, as listed above. Chairman John Kottwitz seconded the motion. On a call by Kottwitz for ayes and nays the motion passed unanimously.

7. DISCUSSION FOR PLAN FOR REMOVAL OF DEAD TREES AND REPLANTING OF NEW TREES

Minutes:

Discussion was held regarding drafting a plan for the removal of dead trees, and replanting new trees thereafter. Kottwitz stated the RFQ Inventory list would be the starting point, and the trees should be prioritized from that list, to mitigate hazards. Advisor Jim Lee agreed, and said the condition of the trees, and their proximity to other structures and power lines should be closely considered. Scheduling tree removal in a zone could be more efficient by allowing the trimmers to cut more, in one area at a time. Administrator Strain asked for suggestions on stump removal. Lee offered ideas on stump grinding, burning stumps, and adding nitrogen fertilizer to the stumps to accelerate decomposition. The Board agreed to meet again after the tree inventory list is obtained, to formulate a more detailed plan at that time.

8. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Minutes:

City Administrator Strain led discussion on tree grant opportunities. These included suggestions from Mid-MO Regional Planning Committee, Thriving Communities Grant, and America The Beautiful. Board Member Beasley reported that the City of Sturgeon recently obtained a tree grant, and suggested Centralia contact them for more details.

9. AS MAY ARISE

Minutes:

Chairman Kottwitz reported that the annual Arbor Day Celebration was recently held at Centralia Intermediate School. Scott Long and Jim Lee assisted with that ceremony.

10. ADJOURN

Minutes:

Member Scott Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Kottwitz seconded the motion. On a call by Kottwitz for ayes and nays the motion carried

unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.

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