

TREE BOARD MEETING

May 4, 2011

12:30 p.m.

Planning & Development Conference Room

Roll Call

Members Present:

Chairman Olson
Board Member Harris
Board Member Kinel

Staff Present:

Tara Norback Planning Assistant
Joel Hornickel Senior Planner

DISCUSSION

Meeting Started at 12:30 p.m.

Roll was taken.

Chairman Olson mentioned that Walt Stone has resigned from the board and Greg Haston will be appointed by the Mayor at an upcoming meeting.

In attendance was Susan Crane, board member of the Downtown Branson Main street Association (DBMA) as well as Greg Haston. Greg introduced himself and gave a background. He is a retired certified Arborist and has worked for Davey Tree.

Approved minutes from March 2, 2011 meetings. Motion by Board member Harris, seconded by Board Member Kinel.

The first item on the agenda was the downtown trees. Joel Hornickel was invited to speak at the April DBMA meeting to discuss the plan for downtown. The group that attended wanted better placement and spacing of the trees within the sidewalk and they wanted a different type of tree. Joel reviewed the concept plan for downtown that included better spacing of trees, bump-outs on the corners to allow for large planters and a more defined space at the intersections. The group liked the plan presented and wanted to start right away. Joel will be talking to engineering to discuss costs and timelines for the project.

It was also discussed to have 2-3 types of trees downtown. Greg Haston also recommended that the existing trees can be trimmed to extend their life until the downtown has been renovated. Once it has been determined if the city's contracted tree trimmers have trimmed or not, Greg would be willing to talk to them to communicate the goal of the extensive pruning.

The next item was the discussion of the TRIM grant. Tara Norback explained that due to the constraints of the grant, only trees could be planted and not shrubs. Therefore, the Gretna island plantings were not an option. Instead, Fall Creek Road was selected. Tara shared the

concept plan to plant 77 trees from Roark Valley Road to the entrance of Lakeside Forest. It was also suggested since there will be plantings along Fall Creek to see if vines could be planted on the west side of the road as well.

Item number 6 and 7 on the agenda is creating a written process for using funds and creating a budget for each project. It was determined that the best process is if someone approached Tara with a project that they would like to use the Tree account for, they would have to have a written proposal and present it to the Tree Board. The Board would then approve or deny with a vote.

Tara will bring a report of available funds to the July meeting where, at that time budgets for projects will be discussed.

Item number 8 on the agenda was an update on the Memorial Tree Program. Beside the tree program, we will be working with the Parks department on a Memorial Bench Program. Additionally, there is a separate account set up for donations that anyone would like donate any amount. These funds could be used for maintaining and planting vegetation on public property.

On the Memorial Tree Program flyer, Clark Harris wanted to add the word “level” to add clarification to the tiers.

Item number 9 on the agenda was completing the discussion of the landscaping ordinance.

9. Remove or alter Section 66-219 D as this has not been used: Tara explained that to her knowledge this has never been used and is unsure of the intent of the authors. She also explained that nothing has been recorded on the plats regarding the exemption. They agreed this could be removed since it wasn't used.
10. Section 66-219 E, include Tree Removal Request and Land Disturbance permits: Currently the code references building or landscaping permits. By adding the other permits it will allow clarification and general inclusion of the other permits used.
11. Slope protection, should plantings beyond grass be required: there was a question if this will be more involved with land disturbance. This item will not be addressed at this time.
12. Do we want to expand the Tree Boards role to allow private property plantings? This would allow programs for planting, etc: It was determined that there could be conflicts with adding private property. At this time, the Board would support private property but not planting.
13. Do we want the public to continue to call to obtain a removal permit even on dead trees or do we want to allow them so many trees per year without a permit?: The Board decided Yes as this could be taken advantage of by someone saying the tree was dead and it was not.
 - a. What would be the best way to deal with wooded lots when a tree is removed?: There could be too many variables if those with wooded lots were exempt from replanting. Instead that option will be given to have them pay the \$50 deposit and forfeit it if they do not want to plant a tree or they can plant a tree on public property at an approved location.

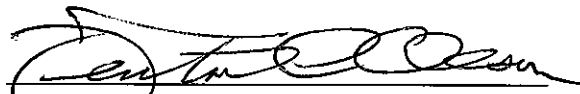
14. Off-site credit: Tara explained that when the landscaping ordinance has been taken to Planning and Zoning the biggest complaint is not having the option for off-site planting. She explained that she has researched the different methods of mitigation. Currently, there is on-site mitigation, planting on the site under construction that is required. There is off-site mitigation with the tree account. The option of off-site mitigation on private property was discussed and it was determined that the developer could plant off-site but on public property and they have to plant the tree and not city staff.
15. Do we want stricter requirements, specifications or other options for buffering?:
Overall there haven't been too many issues but to help the developers the option of adding visuals or models would be beneficial.

Agenda item 10 would be moved to the next meeting once available funds have been determined.

Items to discuss at the July 7th meeting:

1. Tree Board adopting a portion of Fall Creek Road
2. Award for excellent landscaping that the Blossoms of Branson had started
3. Report of available funds to set project budgets and future projects

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm. Motioned by Board member Harris and seconded by board member Kinel.


Kenton Olson, Chairperson

7/18/11
Date


Tara Norback, Planning Assistant

7/18/11
Date