

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
Pesticide/Herbicide Policy Advisory Committee  
Tree Committee  
September 3, 2002

PRAB Members Present: Jerry Wilinski, Chair McCormick, Karl Freed, Ann Miczulski, Donna Treloar

Tree Committee Members Present: Todd Pryor, Robert McClenney, Ted Lupina, Garrylee McCormick

PHAC Members Present: Mike McCarville, Garrylee McCormick, Jerry Wilinski

Guests: David Taylor II, Richard Skalski, Frances Jewell, Mary Ann Ampersee

Although a quorum of the Board and Committee(s) were not present, PRAB Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Donna Treloar motioned approval of the minutes of the August 6, 2002 meeting. Jerry Wilinski seconded his motion which was unanimously approved by the Board.

Jerry Wilinski motioned a recommendation that the City Commission should approve the following event:

- Worship Services and Picnic Activities – Mt. Zion Baptist

His motion was seconded by Donna Treloar and unanimously approved by the Board.

PRAB Chair McCormick reminded the group that their packet had contained information from Christina Greer, the City's Director of Community Relations regarding the City Administration's implementation plan for recommended changes to the advisory board system. He also reminded the group of the Volunteer Recognition Program which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, October 30, 2002 at 5:30 pm.

Mr. McCormick then turned the meeting over to City Forestry Supervisor Todd Pryor. Mr. Pryor stated that Don Tyrrell of Consumers Energy had planned to attend the meeting and present Consumer's request for line clearance trimming within the Blanche Hull Estate, but that a family emergency had arisen and he would be unable to attend.

Mr. Pryor stated that Mr. Tyrrell had questioned him as to the feasibility of clearing out brush/trees under the transmission line that runs through the Hull Estate. Mr. Pryor explained that a formal request would have to be submitted to the City Commission for their approval and that the assembled Boards/Committees would be asked to provide a recommendation to the Commission.

Mr. Pryor informed the group that Consumers had proposed several options which included widespread use of herbicides to kill all of the woody vegetation, flush cutting under the lines,

with future herbicide application when the vegetation again began to grow, or selected cutting of the larger trees, with spot application of herbicides which would inhibit stump sprouting.

Mr. Pryor distributed pictures of the area in question. He stated that, in his opinion, cutting the larger trees down and treating the stumps would be the preferred method of long-range treatment. Mr. Pryor explained that Consumers had "flush cut" this area five (5) years ago and pointed out from the pictures that this method had only encouraged growth. He stated that the current vegetation, with the exception of the larger trees, had reached its maximum height and that allowing it to remain would impede the growth of other invasive species. Mr. Pryor read from the material safety data sheets of the pesticides proposed for use. The group agreed that these products were not highly toxic and no threat to the environment.

After a brief discussion, Karl Freed offered a motion to recommend that the City Commission approve the cutting of the larger trees, under the supervision of the Forestry Supervisor, along with the application of a stump growth killer. Ann Miczulski seconded his motion. Ted Lupina asked that the motion be modified to specify time frames to protect migrating birds. The group agreed that the motion should be modified to recommend that the City Commission approve the cutting of larger trees, under the supervision of the Forestry Supervisor, along with the application of a stump growth killer only during the months of June through August or November through March.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously approved this motion.

On behalf of the Tree Committee, Garrylee McCormick motioned the above recommendation which was seconded by Bob McClenney. The Tree Committee unanimously approved this motion.

On behalf of the Pesticide/Herbicide Policy Advisory Committee, Mike McCarville motioned the above recommendation which was seconded by Garrylee McCormick. As a quorum of this Committee was not present, Ms. Ampersee agreed to conduct a telephone poll for approval. By telephone poll, this motion was also recommended for approval by the Pesticide/Herbicide Policy Advisory Committee.

Mr. Pryor then distributed pictures of trees growing along Water Street by the Radisson. He explained that VanderVeen Construction had requested and received approval to remove selected trees along Michigan Avenue as well as on the Kalamazoo Mall during the Radisson reconstruction project. However, they had failed to include the trees along Water Street. Mr. Pryor stated he had invited representatives from VanderVeen Construction to attend the meeting and explain their request. David Taylor stated that his company had been contracted to perform some of the work in this area which included the installation of footings to support the proposed granite surface installation. The group discussed a variety of related issues including spading out the trees and the possible underground utility conflicts and agreed that they did not have enough information to offer a recommendation. Mr. Pryor agreed to again contact the project manager and request that they be present at next month's Tree Committee meeting.

Dick Skalski then explained that he and David Taylor were present to ask for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Tree Committee approval to install an eight inch (8") sewer line along the north and west side of Knollwood Park to alleviate problems with the aging lift station that provides service to six (6) or seven (7) specific apartment complexes which are located in a low area adjacent to the Park. The group discussed this request and asked that the contractor meet with the Forestry Supervisor to determine exactly where and how this line would be installed and how many trees would be affected. Mr. Skalski stated he would obtain aerial photos of the area for the next meeting as well. Ms. Jewell suggested that this area be "leased" to the requesting party in an effort to secure an annual donation to the Parks and Recreation Department.

The group agreed to table this request until the October meeting.

Ann Miczulski stated that Ameritech had complied with the Board's request to remove all graffiti and plant vegetation around their equipment in Lovell Park.

Ms. Jewell reminded the group of the September 11, 2002 memorial service in Bronson Park from 12:00 pm until 1:00 pm. She stated that the memorial rock and flagpole had already been installed.

She also informed the group that WRKR would be broadcasting from Milham Park on September 11, 2002 from 6:00 am to 10:00 am as a memorial to the victims of last year's terrorist attacks.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.