

**City of Kalamazoo  
TREE COMMITTEE  
Minutes  
May 7, 2019**

Stockbridge Main Conference Room  
415 E. Stockbridge, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Members

Present: Perry Banta, Forestry Supervisor, COK  
Philip Dietrich, ECC Representative  
Orrin Dorr, Public Works Manager, COK  
Debra Nichols, Consumers Energy  
Steve Skalski, Asst. City Engineer Water Dept., COK

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: Julie DeLuca, City Resident  
Thomas Leibold, City Resident  
Patrick McVerry, Deputy Director Parks & Recs, COK  
Christopher Nelson, Collections & Maintenance Manager, COK

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Dorr called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Chairman Dorr completed roll call and determined the aforementioned members were present.

**C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Chairman Dorr introduced the guests:

Julie Deluca, City Resident  
Thomas Leibold, City Resident  
Patrick McVerry, Deputy Director Parks & Recs, COK  
Christopher Nelson, Collections & Maintenance Manager, COK

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By unanimous consent the Committee adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 2, 2019)**

**Committee Member Dietrich supported by Committee Member Skalski, moved approval of the April 2, 2019 Tree Committee Minutes as corrected. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

#### **F. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **415 Edgemoor Ave. – Tree Planting**

Chairman Dorr opened discussion for planting of a tree at 415 Edgemoor Ave. Committee Member Banta stated resident is asking to have the City tree removed and plant another tree in place of it. Resident making the request was not present.

Chairman Dorr recommended to post-pone any action on this new business since home owner is not present. Mr. Banta stated the tree looks healthy.

**Committee Member Banta supported by Committee Member Skalski, made a motion post-pone any action on this new business since home owner is not present. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

##### **311 Wall Street – Tree Removal Request**

Chairman Dorr opened discussion for a tree removal request at 311 Wall Street.

Mr. Leibold stated the sidewalk heave is 4"-6". He noted the sidewalk pitch is good but the building is too low. The surface drainage is the issue. With the four panels of sidewalk that will need to be replaced, he is considering replacing eight to ten panels of sidewalk to make the pitch in front of the building horizontal and lower to the curb. Currently the sidewalk is 3"-4" above the curb. Mr. Leibold stated there is significant sidewalk proposal being done and multiple consultants have indicated the tree would not survive the sidewalk work.

Mr. Leibold wants to plant symmetrically on either side of the entrance. Ms. DeLuca gave a brief history of the home and stated getting the grade right and getting the drainage corrected is most important.

Committee Member Banta shared the City Ordinance in regards to moving the sidewalk around the tree. He also questioned the root system of the tree.

Chairman Dorr stated an assessment of the City tree is usually made at the time of the sidewalk replacement. He also noted they would lower the sidewalk in the case where the sidewalk sets higher than the home. To lower the sidewalks at this location would require the roots to be removed. This assessment could not happen until the sidewalk is being replaced.

Replacement of the tree was discussed. Committee Member Banta stated they need 25' spacing minimum between trees. With the frontage of this property there is only space for one tree. A discussion followed as to what type of tree would be planted with regards to the space available.

Committee Member Banta made a motion to remove the tree and replace with something that is most suitable.

**Committee Member Dietrich supported by Committee Member Banta, made a motion to approve the removal of the tree and plant with another tree more suitable. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

### **Waste Water Treatment Plant – Mosel Ave. Gate Project**

Chairman Dorr opened discussion for the Mosel Ave. Gate Project.

With the Kalamazoo GIS Map up, Mr. Nelson pointed out the area of the entrance to the Waste Water Treatment Plant on Mosel Ave. He stated the entrance gate is surrounded by so much overgrowth it has become a safety hazard for anyone who pulls up to the gate. Mr. Nelson stated he is asking for green space in this area from Mosel to the gate. He noted the power company has taken care of most of the over growth due to the transmission lines in the area. He stated most of the trees are dying or are scrub trees. He is requesting both sides of the drive to be cleaned up. He noted on Kalamazoo Township side of street, they are beginning to see homeless people settling in. They want to open it up for public safety to patrol and to keep the area safe. Mr. Nelson stated he wants to keep some of the mature trees.

Committee Member Banta stated there are railroad tracks in the area and Mr. Nelson is looking to clear back to the area of the railroad tracks which is about 250 feet. A discussion followed regarding the area, the trees, and the brush that would need to be removed.

Committee Member Dietrich asked how many trees would need to be removed. Committee Member Banta suggested they do a site survey to determine what needs to be removed. Then present to the Committee a more defined scope of work of how many trees would need to be removed. A discussion followed as to how it would be determined which trees would be removed.

Committee Member Dietrich suggested the Committee table the decision until next meeting when they have a more defined scope of work.

Chairman Dorr stated the Committee will table the decision until next month when a more defined scope of work is available.

### **DHHS Building, Alcott St. – Tree Removal Request**

Chairman Dorr opened discussion for the tree removal request at the DHHS Building site on Alcott St. No representation from DHHS was present. Chairman Dorr stated they are requesting the removal of the trees along the fence line.

Committee Member Banta stated the original site plan shows the trees on the outside of the sidewalk, in the curb lawn but the trees are actually on the inside of sidewalk and behind the fence. He stated the Right-of-Way line is 66 feet which puts the Right-of-Way about six to eight feet on the other side of the sidewalk in some spots. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Banta stated he will get with Joe Stark, Right-of-Way Coordinator, to confirm the trees are in the ROW.

Committee Member Banta informed the Committee while they were grading the area, the root system of the trees was damaged. He stated they most likely did not know the root system of the trees. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Dietrich suggested the Committee table this decision until representation can be present to discuss the issue. He noted they should have had a surveyor who indicated the trees were in the ROW. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Skalski stated the decision to remove the trees should be denied until the Committee can determine which of the remaining trees are going to survive due to root damage. He stated representation from DHHS will need to be present at the meeting.

Chairman Dorr stated they will table the decision until next month when DHHS can be present.

#### **G. OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Dorr opened discussion for the GPS location of trees in Crane Park. Committee Member Banta stated 5"x5" bronze plaques have been selected and will place them in 10" x 10" concrete squares. They plan to place on the plaques the common name of the tree and the Latin name, and the QR code. The QR code, when scanned, will provide a link to the City of Kalamazoo website with additional information of the tree. There are 24 trees that will be used for this educational project.

#### **H. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Chairman Dorr opened discussion for any Committee comments.

Committee Member Dietrich stated he reported to Chairman Dorr that someone had been tapping Maple trees. Chairman Dorr stated he investigated it but did not see anything. He asked Committee Member Dietrich to let him know when he sees this and he can address it immediately.

Committee Member Nichols stated the City trees are always under stress because of the city environment and tapping the trees adds another stress level to them.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Dorr adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Recording Secretary

Approved by: Orvin Dorr

Date: 6/4/19

Staff Liaison



April 28, 2019

City of Kalamazoo  
Department of Public Services  
415 Stockbridge Avenue

311 Wall Street

The scope of this project includes management of multiple issues for this address:

- remediation of tree damaged sidewalk
- removal of said tree (pending approval)
- remediation of surface drainage issues as possible/ as reviewed with Orrin Dorr
- initiating curbcut allowing parking development to east of 311 Wall Street
- initiating barrier curb protecting gas meter, future development of disputed parking pad to west of building

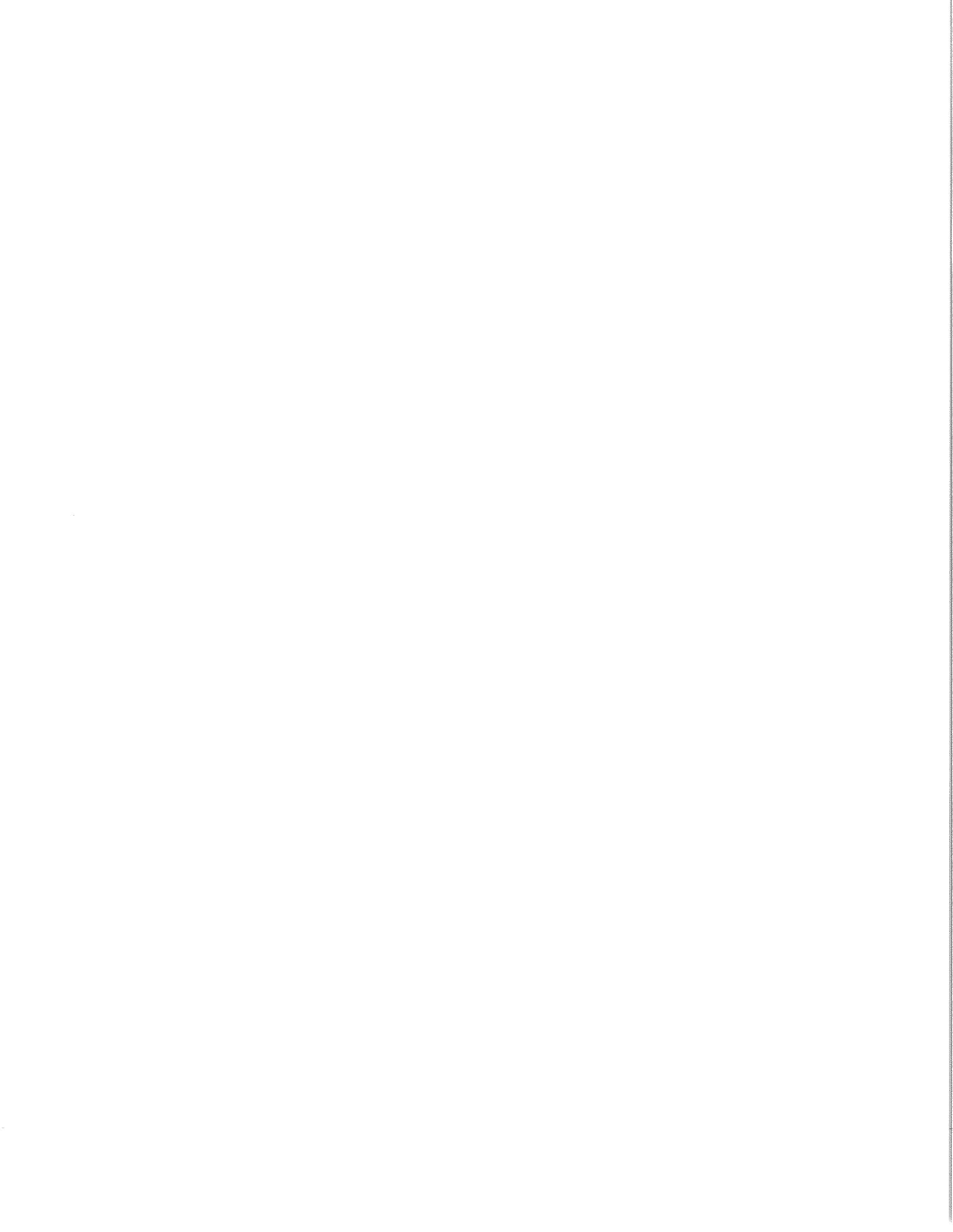
311 Wall Street has undergone significant renovation over the years. The foundation established in 1837 pre-dates Wall Street, pre-dates the sidewalk. To the west of the building (discovered in Title search) is an undeeded easement which has been utilized as the primary parking pad. This is currently in probate, the eventual disposition is unknown. While the curbcut is established, this location is less than ideal for residents access, for safety, for access to the south of the property.

The scope of this development is to remediate multiple current issues, and idealize this lot for future use. Mitzi DeLuca initiated the Common Ground Community Garden on this lot which will be perpetuated, this is a busy site. The curbcut to the east of the building will allow for controlled access for these gardens, for the south of the building lot, for functional access for the residents.

The curb height is 6 inches above the sill plate on the NW corner of the building. Surface drainage damage has been severe, has been repaired in this most recent renovation. This may be remediated (to a degree) by lowering the sidewalk and developing the established drive apron pitch. Leveling the sidewalk to, or below, the curb along the front of the building will allow suitable landscape development. Establishing a curbcut to the East of the building will allow this sidewalk surface to drain to the curb gutter. While less than ideal, having surface drainage toward a foundation is disastrous.

This work is an opportunity to remediate multiple past issues and, most importantly, establish this lot for future development. Will allow new tree plantings on the curb lawn appropriate for a small building. Allow functional and attractive landscaping for this unique city lot.

Julie Ann DeLuca



311 Wall Street



311 Wall Street

