

**City of Kalamazoo
TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes
March 5, 2019**

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

Members Present: Orrin Dorr, Public Works Manager, COK
Brian Vogl, Consumers Energy
Chris Patchell, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Steve Skalski, Asst. City Engineer Water Dept., COK
Philip Dietrich, ECC Representative
Dave Cooper, Arborist, COK

City Staff: Wendy Burlingham, Recording Secretary

Guests: Kyle Oak, Consumers Energy
Todd Brunner, TMB Landscape Consulting

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Dorr introduced the guests, Kyle Oak with Consumers Energy and Todd Brunner with TMB Landscape Consulting.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the March 5, 2019 Agenda.

Mr. Dietrich supported by Mr. Skalski moved approval of the March 5, 2019 Tree Committee Agenda. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 8, 2019)

There were no changes to the January 8, 2019 Minutes.

Mr. Patchell supported by Mr. Skalski, moved approval of the January 8, 2019 Tree Committee Minutes as submitted. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS

555 W. Crosstown - Tree Removal

Mr. Dorr presented the tree removal request at 555 W. Crosstown. Mr. Dorr noted the committee looked at this issue at the November 6, 2018 meeting. The owner of the property at that time stated he would hire a landscape architect who would present a plan. Mr. Brunner, the landscape architect, presented a site plan to the committee. He stated the east side of the property along Westnedge Ave. has four sugar maples slated for removal. He plans to add nine crimson century maple trees to this side of the property. They will add color and grow as high as forty feet. The property owner wants this area to be a gateway into the property and make it a dramatic entrance. Discussion followed regarding the placement of the new trees along Westnedge. Mr. Brunner stated the size of the trees that he proposes to plant will be in accordance with the city ordinance of 2"-3" caliper.

Mr. Brunner stated along Crosstown there are a lot of red maples that are in good shape. He plans to leave them. There are 4 crab trees that will need to be removed where a new sign will be placed. Mr. Brunner stated there are a total of 8 crab trees they would like to remove. The trees are 30 years old and the lifespan of a crab tree is usually less than that. They want to open visibility to the building and to the new sign. He is suggesting replanting red bud and medium flowering trees in place of the crab trees. Mr. Brunner noted on the site plan where he plans to plant new trees.

Mr. Brunner is presenting to the board to remove 15 trees and replant 19 trees. He stated he was trying to address the concerns from the November meeting and plant at least one for one.

Mr. Brunner noted on the plans the PN symbol represented the evergreen trees that will stay and not be removed.

Mr. Skalski made a motion to approve the removal of 15 trees and plant 19 trees in the spring of 2019 or by the fall of 2019.

Mr. Skalski, supported by Mr. Dietrich, made a motion to approve the removal of 15 trees and plant 19 trees in the spring of 2019 or by the fall of 2019. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Consumers Energy – 3 Tree Removals at Cork and Emerald – located on Kalamazoo Parks & Recreation Property

Mr. Dorr opened discussion for Kyle Oak of Consumers Energy to present the removal of three trees at Cork and Emerald, located on Kalamazoo Park & Recreation property. Photos of these trees were presented.

Mr. Oak stated Consumers upgrading their utilities ahead of the road reconstruction that is coming down Cork St. Mr. Dorr stated the City of Kalamazoo is doing an MDOT Project on Cork St that will go from Portage Road to Sprinkle Road. Part of the project will include

replacing the water main and replacing the culvert of Davis Street. The project will be a full reconstruct west of Emerald. East of Emerald it will be mill and fill resurfacing project. They plan to take it from a four lane to a three lane with a park lane. A discussion followed regarding the removal of the three trees.

Mr. Skalski, supported by Mr. Dietrich, made a motion to approve the removal of three trees with the understanding Consumers will plant one tree for each tree removed in a location near the intersection Banbury along Pennway, in the buffer strip, area from the preferred species list. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Patchell would like to bring a project Todd Pryor was working on back to the surface to have a tree that was hit in the island on Park/Westnedge at the south point replaced using insurance funds collected. Mr. Dorr indicated the City will look into the insurance funds. It was also discussed this site could be used for the Arbor Day Tree Planting dedication.

Mr. Patchell also asked that a project his wife and Todd Pryor were working on be brought back to the surface which was locating and identifying trees in Crane Park. Eventually they want the tree locations on GPS. This would allow people to use GPS in the park, and follow the marked trees around the park. They originally had about 26 varieties but possibly a few were cut down. Mr. Patchell stated the tree identification has been done and there is money to do plaques that will be placed on the trees. He stated they have people with technological experience to help the City. Mr. Dorr stated he would speak with Parks and Recreation staff to determine who will take the lead on moving this project forward. Mr. Patchell would like to have this project completed when the construction is complete and the park is re-opened in June sometime.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

I. BOARD COMMENTS

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dorr adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Wendy Birmingham Date: 4-3-19
Recording Secretary

Approved by: Orrin Dorr Date: 4/3/19
Staff Liaison