City of Kalamazoo
TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes
April 2, 2019

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

Members Present:	Orrin Dorr, Public Works Manager, COK Debra Nichols, Consumers Energy Chris Patchell, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) Philip Dietrich, ECC Representative Perry Banta, Forestry Supervisor, COK Sean Fletcher –Parks and Recreation Director, COK
City Staff:	Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary
Guests:	Monica Johnson, OCBA Landscape Architects

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, Monica Johnson with OCBA Landscape Architects.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the April 2, 2019 Agenda.

Mr. Patchell supported by Mr. Dietrich moved approval of the April 2, 2019 Tree Committee Agenda. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (March 5, 2019)

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

Mr. Patchell supported by Mr. Dietrich, moved approval of the March 5, 2019 Tree Committee Minutes as submitted. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Rockwell Park Phase 2 Project – Tree Removal

Mr. Dorr opened discussion for the Rockwell Park Phase 2 Project – tree removal. Site plans were presented to the committee. Mr. Fletcher stated the building at Rockwell Park is in very poor condition and they are replacing it with a concrete pre-fab building. The building will provide restrooms, storage space and open space for hosting events. In order to get the new building in this space they will need to remove the marked tree on the site plan. Mr. Fletcher stated as part of their standard operating procedure that they replace two trees for every one tree removed. He stated they have plenty of space along the walking trail to plant trees near benches to provide shade or near the exercise equipment.

Ms. Johnson stated the building is rated for Tornados. This building is for the rec programs for the kids who attend the program. This building will provide safety for the kids. Ms. Johnson stated on the landscape plans they are showing three trees to be plants for the one tree that will be removed. Discussion followed regarding power lines in the area.

Mr. Dietrich stated the plans show they will be planting two tulip trees and one zelkova. He asked if the zelkova was a ~~flowing~~ flowering tree. Ms. Johnson stated it is not a flowering tree but it has a variegated bark with a large canopy.

Mr. Dietrich asked if the trees would be planted under the power lines. Ms. Nichols stated they are planting them in the park, not under the power lines. Mr. Fletcher stated he walked through the park, the park is very open, and it would be nice to have the trees planted around the path but away from the asphalt so the roots do not heave the walk way.

Mr. Dietrich made a motion to remove one tree and plant three within the park away from the power lines.

Mr. Patchell supported by Ms. Nichols, made a motion to approve the removal of one tree and plant three within the park away from the power lines. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Patchell stated his wife Natalie was working with Todd Pryor to name the trees in Crane Park. He stated he needs someone to work with Natalie to complete the project. Mr. Fletcher stated he met with Natalie and he thought she had obtained grant money for this project. Mr. Patchell stated there are funds already in the Kalamazoo in Bloom Endowment fund marked for buying the labeling of the trees. Mr. Fletcher stated Natalie can work with Steve and Patrick.

Mr. Banta initiated a discussion for Arbor Day. Mr. Banta stated Arbor Day planting dedication would be held at Park/Westnedge island. Mr. Fletcher stated he would like trees planted in MLK Park. Ms. Nichols stated Consumers Energy has Earth Month every April in which employees are required to volunteer for at least one event. She suggested for next year the City could get

with Consumers Energy and plan an Arbor Day/Earth Month event. Consumers would then ask for volunteers to sign up.

Mr. Patchell asked if Mr. Dorr was able to find out if any insurance money would be used to pay for replacement trees at the Park/Westnedge island. Mr. Dorr stated there is no insurance money available to use.

Mr. Dorr stated they would plant trees in MLK Park. Mr. Fletcher stated they have FFE monies to plant 4-5 trees in the park. Mr. Fletcher stated he was hoping some of the 500 trees bought with the FFE monies could be planted in MLK Park too. Mr. Dorr stated the funds for the trees planted for Arbor Day would come from FFE.

Mr. Dorr stated there was a news article that went out asking for suggestions from residents as to where to plant trees. Mr. Banta stated there have been over 140 suggestions.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

I. BOARD COMMENTS

Perry Banta, the new Forester Supervisor for the City of Kalamazoo, was introduced to the Tree Committee. Mr. Banta stated he worked for Wright Tree Service for six years. He is a Certified Arborist, Certified Arborist Utilities Specialist, and has a BA from Spring Arbor in Organizational Management. Mr. Banta stated he is available and welcomes the committee to contact him for any needs they may have.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dorr adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Rutherford Date: 5-15-19
Recording Secretary

Approved by: Orrin Dorr Date: 5/15/19
Staff Liaison