

**City of Kalamazoo
TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes
February 4, 2020**

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

Members

Present: Anna Crandall, Sr. Civil Engineer, COK
Philip Dietrich, ECC Representative
Anthony Ladd, Asst. City Engineer/City Traffic Engineer, COK
Brian Vogl, Forester, Consumers Energy

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: Tyler Cravens, Wightman
Lisa Kurchina, Consumers Energy
Rusty Miller, Graphic Packaging
Deborah Nichols, Forester, Consumers Energy

A. CALL TO ORDER

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd completed roll call and determined the aforementioned members were present.

C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd introduced the guests:

- Tyler Cravens, Wightman
- Lisa Kurchina, Consumers Energy
- Rusty Miller, Graphic Packaging
- Deborah Nichols, Forester, Consumers Energy

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 7, 2020)

Committee Member Phil Dietrich supported by Committee Member Brian Vogl moved approval of the January 7, 2020 Tree Committee Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Kalsee (Cork and Portage) Project – Tree Removal

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd opened discussion for the tree removal for Kalsee Credit Union (Cork and Portage) Project.

Mr. Tyler Cravens with Wightman stated Kalsee Credit Union is looking at this site to develop a new branch. The current two building will be removed. There will be two drives, one along Pasadena St. and one on Portage St. There is an existing tree next to the sidewalk. The sidewalk is encroaching onto Kalsee's site. The City has asked them to look into removing the tree and realigning the sidewalk within the right-of-way. The tree is overgrown and will cause a sight obstruction to the customers exiting the property. The tree will also block the vision of the signage.

Committee Member Phil Dietrich asked if there are plans for replacing the tree. Mr. Cravens stated they did not have plans to replace the tree in the same location but is willing to replace in another location. He stated they are also adding several plants to the landscape beyond City requirements.

Committee Member Phil Dietrich said he is in favor of removing the tree as long as there is not a decrease in canopy for the city.

Committee Member Anna Crandall asked Mr. Craven if they were adding trees as part of the site plan. Mr. Craven responded yes and stated his understanding was they would do at least the minimum plus one. He stated they would be going above the requirements. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Phil Dietrich supported by Committee Member Anna Crandall, made a motion to allow the removal of the tree with the understanding that the final approved site plan will include a net increase of canopy. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Consumers Energy - Graphic Packaging Expansion Project – Tree Removal

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd opened discussion for tree removals for Consumers Energy for the Graphic Packaging Expansion Project.

Ms. Deborah Nichols with Consumers Energy stated Graphic Packaging has asked Consumers Energy to relocate their 3-phase lines from one side of the street to the opposite side of the street

up to the sub-station to accommodate their expansion project. There are trees along Wright Coating Technologies and there is a lot with two maples. There are sycamores that are taller than the 50-ft poles that are being moved over. These trees will lose two-thirds of the crown and for the health of the trees they are asking to remove the trees. There is a total of 12 trees that need to be removed.

Mr. Rusty Miller with Graphic Packaging stated there is an approved site plan, but he does not recall what trees or shrubs were in the plans. He stated his idea for his employees who live in the City and who may want a tree, they would donate a tree to those employees to be planted in the City and he would give several thousand of seedings to the area also.

Committee Member Phil Dietrich asked when the project is going to start. Ms. Nichols said they want to start in March. She stated Consumers Energy will be taking the trees down and Graphic Packaging will be replacing the trees. She asked if the City would want the wood hauled away and what should be done with the stumps. Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd stated they should clean up all the wood and grind the stumps.

Committee Member Phil Dietrich asked if there was room to plant the trees where the lines are being removed from. Ms. Nichols stated there is no room to plant at that location. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Phil Dietrich supported by Committee Member Anna Crandall, made a motion to allow the removal of the twelve trees on the condition they will replant the appropriate species of trees, two for one, giving credit for the trees that are being planted according to the site plan. Additionally, Consumers Energy agrees to total removal of the trees including grinding of the stumps and clean-up. If not all the 12 trees will fit under the power lines, then they will replant elsewhere. This agreement is contingent on the work being done by June 2021. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

GPS Location of Trees in Crane Park

There were no updates for this project.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd asked if the committee could meet in the next few weeks to discuss the Tree Committee in general, i.e., the tree ordinance, membership, policy and guidelines. He will be sending out a meeting notice. A discussion followed.

The committee members present agreed to meet.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Interim Chairman Anthony Ladd adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Submitted by: Brian Rutherford Date: 3-3-20
Recording Secretary

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 3/3/20
Staff Liaison