City of Kalamazoo
TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes
January 12, 2021

Electronic Meeting

Members
Present: Anthony Ladd, Public Works Division Manager, COK
        Brian LaBelle, Forester, COK
        Patrick McVerry, Deputy Director - Parks & Recreation, COK
        Deborah Nichols, Forester, Consumers Energy
        Steve Skalski, Asst City Engineer, Water Dept., COK
        Brian Vogl, Forester, Consumers Energy

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: Curt Aardema, avb
        David Beck, Tetra Tech

A. CALL TO ORDER
   Committee Chair Ladd called the Zoom Webinar meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL
   Committee Chair Ladd completed roll call and determined the aforementioned members were present.

C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
   Committee Chair Ladd introduced guest:
      - Curt Aardema, avb
      - David Beck, Tetra Tech

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   By unanimous consent the Committee adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 28, 2020 and December 1, 2020)
   Committee Member McVerry supported by Committee Member LaBelle moved approval of the October 28, 2020 and December 1, 2020 Tree Committee Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS
   268 E. Alcott Street - Tree Removal – Tetra Tech
Committee Chair Ladd opened discussion for tree removals at 268 E. Alcott Street by Tetra Tech.

Mr. David Beck, with Tetra Tech, shared drawings of the property with the Committee members and stated they are working on behalf of the Lyondell Environmental Custodial Trust who own the property, which was the formerly Allied Paper site. During the Lyondell Chemical bankruptcy, the property went into an environmental trust managed by a trustee appointed by the Department of Justice. Over the past couple of years, they have been working with the EPA, EGLE, and City representatives on advancing remedial design of the site. They have finalized the remedial design and are looking to move forward to implement the remedial design this year.

Mr. Beck noted the remedial actions includes excavation of impacted material throughout the property with its placement in an upland Consolidation Area which will be capped. Approximately 1.15 acres of the property requires excavation to remove contaminated soil. The soil, vegetation, including the trees whose root systems are growing in the contaminated soil, must be removed to complete the remedial action.

Mr. Beck stated the City acquired the Panelyte site, which is adjacent to the property, from the Michigan Land Bank in 2019. The City of Kalamazoo will take ownership of the Panelyte site after remediation is complete. The remediation includes significant restoration and improvement of the site that benefit the environment and local residents, including the relocation and restoration of a portion of Portage Creek and the removal of impacted material near the creek to expand the flood plain and its flood storage capacity.

Mr. Beck stated they plan to remove the trees in the next month and continue with the remediation in the spring. Tetra Tech subcontracted an arborist who came to the site and identified 166 trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). He provided a list of tree sizes and species to the Committee. As part of the restoration, along Cork Street, they plan to restore the Portage Creek. He noted they will relocate the stream to slow it down. There will be a new flood plain along the river and in that flood plan they plan to plant approximately 600 plantings per acre which includes trees and shrubs. Mr. Beck stated this is equivalent to 150 trees per acre in the eight-acre area for a total of 1,200 trees. The new plantings will happen in year four of the project.

Mr. Beck displayed the list of trees that will be removed. Most of those trees are box elders. He then displayed a list of the trees and shrubs plantings that will take place based on availability. Those trees are flood plain plantings.

Committee Member LaBelle asked if the chemicals in the soil are in the root system of the trees. Mr. Beck stated they are contaminated with the residuals of the paper factory and the trees would go into the consolidated area. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Skalski supported by Committee Member LaBelle, made a motion to approve the removal the trees as described. With a voice vote, the motion
carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

400 Rose Street – Phase 2 – Tree Removal – avb

Committee Chair Ladd stated the Committee met in December to discuss in more detail the aspects of the project. This request came to the Committee in December and the Committee had some concerns and wanted to take additional time to discuss all the concerns. The Committee presented to avb suggestions gathered from their discussion. Committee Chair Ladd stated the suggestions included:

- Additional plantings at adjacent site.
- Asking for a guarantee of the health of the trees for five years.
- Providing an alternative list of tree species for planting.

Mr. Curt Aardema, with avb, stated changes were made due to the suggestions made by the Committee. He noted they looked at the site for locations to plant four additional trees. They located an area to the east of the project site on the south side of Cedar Street. They are looking at some areas on the east side of Rose Street. He stated they are open to planting recommendations made by the Committee. They have agreed to accept the five-year warranty of the new plantings. Additionally, they have agreed to replace the callery pear trees with the suggested tree species made by the Committee.

Committee Chair Ladd asked Mr. Aardema to contact the City when they begin the landscaping and Brian LaBelle will meet with him on site to review and mark the planting locations. Mr. Aardema stated they hoped to start construction in April, and it will be about 18 months before they begin the landscaping process.

Committee Member LaBelle supported by Committee Member McVerry, made a motion to allow the tree plantings with the additional four tree plantings to be determined by the City and no callery pear trees are to be planted. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Bank Street Realignment Project – Tree Species

Committee Chair Ladd stated this is still in the design phase and he does not have an update at this time. They are working through the design phase and should get it out to bid in the spring. They are still committed to picking the appropriate tree species.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS
Committee Chair Ladd stated the City successfully completed their tree plantings and hazardous tree removals for 2020 and look forward to repeating this again this year.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member LaBelle supported by Committee Member Skalski, made a motion to adjourn the Tree Committee meeting. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Submitted by: [Signature] Date: 4/6/2021
Recording Secretary

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 4/12/2021
Staff Liaison
Alternatives to Callery Pear (16 – 25 ft tall)

Cornus alternifolia (Alternate leaf / pagoda dogwood) 10 – 25 ft tall
Amelanchier arborea (Downy serviceberry) 16 – 39 ft tall
Amelanchier laevis (Allegheny serviceberry) 20-40 ft
Amelanchier grandiflora (Apple serviceberry) hybrid of Downy x Allegheny 15 – 25 ft tall
Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe tree) 12 – 20 ft tall
Crataegus viridis (Green hawthorn) 20-35 ft “winter king” cultivar
Tree Committee Meeting Discussion for 400 Rose Street Phase 2

December 14, 2020, 2:00 PM

Brian stated they proposed 5 removals on Cedar and 2 on Park.

Anthony stated we aim to get two for one. They are proposing to remove 7 tree and replace with 10 trees.

Brian suggested we propose they plant 2 for 1 and ask for a five-year warranty the trees will survive. Because they are removing healthy mature trees, we should request a five-year warranty or some type of guarantee.

Species:

Gail has suggested alternative plantings that would provide the same horticultural value:

Alternatives to Callery Pear (16 – 25 ft tall)

Cornus alternifolia (Alternate leaf / pagoda dogwood) 10 – 25 ft tall
Amelanchier arborea (Downy serviceberry) 16 – 39 ft tall
Amelanchier laevis (Allegheny serviceberry) 20-40 ft
Amelanchier grandiflora (Apple serviceberry) hybrid of Downy x Allegheny 15 – 25 ft tall
Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe tree) 12 – 20 ft tall
Crataegus viridis (Green hawthorn) 20-35 ft “winter king” cultivar

Brian was in favor of this list. He doesn’t think they will be a problem with the stop sign.

Steve suggested giving them the entire list and let them choose.

Brian suggested putting red maple, sugar maple, or oak at the corner.

Gail stated the trees on Park would not obscure the vision of the traffic traveling. Anthony agreed.

Anthony stated the real concern is with a tree blocking the stop sign and an accident happen because of that.

Brian suggested move the trees in or move them north. The small trees spacing is much easier to maneuver.

Anthony suggested: Request four additional plantings at an adjacent site, swap for the space close to the building and provide the list of options to them, and ask for a five-year guarantee. Everyone agreed to this.
December 29, 2020

Mr. Anthony Ladd  
Tree Committee Chair and Public Works Division Manager  
City of Kalamazoo  
Tree Committee  
415 East Stockbridge Avenue  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001

Re:  Tree Removal on Former Panelyte Property  
Allied Paper Superfund Site – OU1  
Lyondell Environmental Custodial Trust

Dear Mr. Ladd:

On behalf of the Lyondell Environmental Custodial Trust (the Trust), Tetra Tech, Inc. has prepared this letter regarding Operable Unit 1 of the Allied Paper/Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site (hereafter referred to as OU1 or the Site) located at 268 E. Alcott Street in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The location of OU1 is shown on the attached Figure 1. Property owned by the City of Kalamazoo is adjacent to OU1 and is referred to as the former Panelyte property. The ownership of the former Panelyte property was transferred from the State of Michigan to the City of Kalamazoo in 1999.

The Trust is preparing to initiate Remedial Actions (RA) at OU1, as directed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in accordance with the September 21, 2016, Record of Decision (ROD), and in consultation with the City Engineer’s Office and the Community Planning & Economic Development Office to address historic environmental contamination at the Site. The RA activities are planned to begin in the Spring of 2021. The RA includes excavation of impacted material throughout OU1 with its placement in an upland Consolidation Area shown on the attached Figure 2. Figure 2 also identifies a portion (approximately 1.15 acres) of the former Panelyte property that requires excavation to remove contaminated soil. The current vegetation in that area is growing in the contaminated soil and must be removed to complete the RA.

The City of Kalamazoo is anticipated to take ownership of the OU1 property, currently owned by the Trust, following the RA. The RA includes significant restoration and improvement of the Site that will benefit the environment and the local residents, including the relocation and restoration of a portion of Portage Creek and the removal of impacted materials near the creek to expand the flood plain and its flood storage capacity.

Tetra Tech subcontracted an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist to complete a tree survey of the portion of the former Panelyte property that requires vegetative clearing. Upon concurrence of the city, it is the intent of the Trust to remove these trees in the winter of 2021 in advance of Phase I RA activities. The arborist identified 166 trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height (DBH). Information regarding the tree sizes and species is presented in the attached Table 1.
The Trust and Tetra Tech request that the Tree Committee approve the removal of the trees along the southern portion of the former Panelyte property shown on Figure 2. Upon completion of the RA, the area will be revegetated and monitored under an EPA-approved Operation and Maintenance Plan. As previously indicated, the Trust and Tetra Tech have been in direct consultation with the City Engineer’s Office and the Community Planning & Economic Development Office during this project that provided comments through the design process. The final design was submitted to EPA and the City in December 2020.

The Trust and Tetra Tech will continue to work closely with the City as the project progresses, including participation in a Site Plan Review for the project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tetra Tech, Inc

David R. Beck, PG
Associate Hydrogeologist

Michael Kovacich, CPG
Project Coordinator/Principal Hydrogeologist

Attachments:
Table 1 – Summary of Tree Survey
Figure 1 – Site Location
Figure 2 – Features

cc (via email): James Baker, City of Kalamazoo City Engineer
Jamie McCarthy, City of Kalamazoo Sustainable Development Coordinator
Lyondell Environmental Custodial Trust
Michael Berkoff, Remedial Project Manager, US EPA


### Table 1
Summary of Tree Survey

Tree Committee Letter
Operable Unit 1, Allied Landfill
Lyondell Environmental Custodial Trust
Kalamazoo, Michigan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>6-12 inches</th>
<th>13-18 inches</th>
<th>19-24 inches</th>
<th>25-30 inches</th>
<th>&gt; 30 inches</th>
<th>Total # Trees &gt; 6&quot; DBH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxelder</td>
<td>Acer negundo</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver maple</td>
<td>Acer saccharinum</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red maple</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway maple</td>
<td>Acer platanoides</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black cherry</td>
<td>Prunus serotina</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hackberry</td>
<td>Celtis occidentalis</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slippery Elm</td>
<td>Ulmus rubra</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siberian Elm</td>
<td>Ulmus pumila</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red oak</td>
<td>Quercus rubra</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Oak</td>
<td>Quercus alba</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burr oak</td>
<td>Quercus macrocarpa</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood</td>
<td>Populus deltoides</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese sumac</td>
<td>Ailanthus altissima</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Apple</td>
<td>Malus pumila</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catalpa</td>
<td>Catalpa bignonoides</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 166

Notes:
- DBH = Diameter measured at Breast Height, approximately 4’ above grade.
- *Multi-stemmed trees were calculated using a cumulative method where the listed DBH is the sum of all the individual stems’ DBH.
- Tree survey completed by Arborist Services of Kalamazoo on December 17, 2020.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Form</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Percent Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Aeluropus inundata</td>
<td>speckled alder</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asminda trifolia</td>
<td>pawpaw</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carpinus caroliniana</td>
<td>hornbeam/blue-beach</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carpinus laciniosa</td>
<td>shellbark hickory</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Celtis occidentalis</td>
<td>hackberry</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Platania occidentalis</td>
<td>pecan</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Populus deltoides</td>
<td>eastern cottonwood</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quercus bicolor</td>
<td>swamp white oak</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salix nigra</td>
<td>black willow</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrub</td>
<td>Aroma prunifolia</td>
<td>chokeberry</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Betula pumila</td>
<td>bog birch</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cephalanthus occidentalis</td>
<td>buttonbush</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cornus amomum</td>
<td>silky dogwood</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cornus sanguinea</td>
<td>red-osier dogwood</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lindera benzoin</td>
<td>spicebush</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physocarpus opulifolius</td>
<td>ninebark</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prunus palustris</td>
<td>swamp rose</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salix babilliana</td>
<td>beeb willow</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salix discolor</td>
<td>pussy willow</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salix exigua</td>
<td>sandbar willow</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sambucus canadensis</td>
<td>elderberry</td>
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<td>Staphylea trifolia</td>
<td>bladdernut</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viburnum lentago</td>
<td>holly/berry</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viburnum opulus subsp. trifolium</td>
<td>high bush cranberry</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Final species list dependent on availability.
Percent composition totals 100 for each growth form (tree and shrub).
Proposed tree to shrub ratio is 1:3 (25% trees, 75% shrubs).