

Tree Board Meeting - May 6, 2008

The following media were noticed relative to this meeting per the Open Meeting Law of the State of WI: The Ozaukee Press, Port Washington; The Milwaukee Journal (Ozaukee and Washington Desk); The Sheboygan Press, Sheboygan. In addition, a copy of the agenda was also posted at the following locations within the Village of Belgium: Belgium Village Hall, Belgium Post Office, Port Washington State Bank (Belgium Office), Wisconsin State Bank (Belgium Office) and Belgium Hardware and Beverage.

Call to Order, Roll Call, Establishment of a Quorum:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Dianna Otto. Present were Sandra St. Peter, Thomas Peterik, and Anna Krier. Absent were Dale Pfeifer, Donald Gotcher and Kevin Wirtz.

Open Meeting Law Compliance Check:

This meeting is in compliance.

Pledge to the Flag, Moment of Silence

Announcements/Input:

- **Membership in National Arbor Day Foundation** – Discussion took place as to the benefits of membership in the National Arbor Day Foundation. It was noted it is beneficial when applying for various grants. The Tree Board has not been active in the National Arbor Day Foundation since 2005. Thomas Peterik noted there were funds available in the budget for the membership. A motion to approve Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil pursuing membership was made by Thomas Peterik and seconded by Anna Krier. The Tree Board was polled: ayes –Krier, Otto, Peterik, St. Peter; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Tree City USA** – Information was presented from the National Arbor Day Foundation regarding the Tree City USA program. Belgium was awarded the Tree City USA designation in 1995, 1996, and 1997. It has not been pursued in recent years. The benefits of the program were discussed. It was noted that the Tree City USA program gives project ideas for Tree Board, educational material as well as being beneficial for the purpose of pursuing grants. It was estimated it may take from three to twelve months to complete the process of applying for Tree City USA status. A motion to approve applying for the Tree City USA designation was made by Dianna Otto and seconded by Sandy St. Peter. The Tree Board was polled: ayes –Krier, Otto, Peterik, St. Peter; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Grants** – Grants were discussed. The Tree Board will work to identify potential funding and Village projects that are a match. Currently, the Urban Forestry Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant are two possibilities. Funding cycles are generally 12 – 24 months out. Al Zelaya, Regional Urban Forestry

Coordinator for the East Central Region recommended the Intent to Apply form be sent in even if the Tree Board later decides not to apply. There is no penalty for not applying. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil will complete the DNR Urban Forestry Grant Intent to Apply form. This will allow the Tree Board to receive the grant materials for review.

A directory of grants is available from the Marquette University Library. This will assist the Tree Board in identifying potential funding. The price of *Foundations in Wisconsin: A Directory* is \$70.00 with a \$15.00 discount for municipalities. Thomas Peterik noted there are funds available in the budget for the purchase. A motion to purchase *Foundations in Wisconsin: A Directory* was made by Thomas Peterik and seconded by Dianna Otto. The Tree Board was polled: ayes –Krier, Otto, Peterik, St. Peter; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.

- **Arbor Day Presentation** – Packets were distributed with information on the founding of Arbor Day and trees in general. No action was taken.
- **Review and Planning – Heritage Park Layout** – A map of Heritage Park was reviewed. Chairperson Otto noted she would like to know where the buildings will be and what traffic patterns are planned. The Tree Board would like a Professional Landscaper to be involved in planning the various plantings. The Tree Board will review and give commentary on any proposals that are submitted. No action was taken.

Action Items

- **Meeting Schedule** – The Meeting Schedule was discussed. It was noted that the meeting definitely should not be on Monday nights with the intention that the Village Board Liaison can attend. However, as Village Board Liaison Dale Pfeifer was absent, it was decided to set the next meeting for June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. and review the meeting schedule with input from Dale Pfeifer at the next meeting.
- **Village Hall Landscaping** – Landscaping was discussed. Tree Board members stated it is difficult to find extra time in their schedules to clean the flower beds, rake leaves, etc. No action was taken.
- **Village Hall Tree** – Pictures of the tree near the flag pole were reviewed. The Tree Board would like to see the tree saved if at all possible as the tree is mature and healthy. A motion to review the recommendation from Arborist Bob Gluck at the next Tree Board meeting was made by Dianna Otto and seconded by Sandy St. Peter. The Tree Board was polled: ayes – Krier, Otto, Peterik, St. Peter; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.
- **Street Trees** – Street trees were discussed. This item will need to be reviewed further at the next meeting. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil is to bring the listing which was written last fall. The listing will be reviewed. No action was taken.

Miscellaneous Matters

- **Hanging Baskets – Community Park** – Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Cecil noted that Mary Sprader offered to assist in updating the hanging baskets. St. Peter noted it can be time consuming to work on the baskets. A motion to approve Mary Sprader updating the Hanging Baskets at Community Park as needed with an amount not to exceed \$175 was made by Sandra St. Peter and seconded by Dianna Otto. The Tree Board was polled: ayes –Krier, Otto, Peterik, St. Peter; noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.

Sandra St. Peter left the Meeting. (8:04 p.m.)

- **Review of Past Projects** – A review of past projects took place. Some projects named were the following: Street Tree Drive Through and Review, Tree Inventory and Website Updating. It was noted that Kevin Wirtz may have a document which lists various projects. No action was taken.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dianna Otto and seconded by Thomas Peterik at 8:18 p.m. The Tree Board was polled: ayes –Krier, Otto, Peterik, noes – none; abstain – none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Cecil
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer