

Advisory Committee on Trees – July 17, 2018

Call to order 7:03 PM

Present: Brian Townsend (Assistant Director Parks/Public Works), Charles Jackman(chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder).

Review and approve minutes for May 29, 2018 with one correction.

Old Business

1 – Advisory Committee/Board Meeting

Charles represented ACT at the meeting of Committee/Board Chairs with City Council on Wednesday, July 11. Eleven Chairs were present and gave reports. One topic which stimulated a lot of discussion was reaction to a recent letter in the News Review complaining about posting of Advisory Board/Committee minutes in a timely manner that conforms to the “Open Meeting Act”. In the letter the complaint was lack of access to current minutes. Some Committees/Boards are having problems with attendance, and sometimes do not have a quorum (majority of members present). One suggestion made by a council member was to cancel and reschedule the meeting if a quorum was lacking. Minutes should be posted once they are reviewed and approved. ACT always has a quorum, and posts minutes promptly once they are approved. Brian offered to send us copies of the Open Meetings Act. The discussions were wide ranging. The meeting ran until 10PM.

2 – Public Works Open House.

ACT had planned to be present at this event to alert the community about a new pest, the Spotted Lantern Fly. Bob Trumbule provided fact sheets on this pest and activity sheets for children. Ethel and Charles had space at a table shared with an educational display produced by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board. ACT provided specimens of Ailanthus, and a Riker mount of pinned invasive pests including the Spotted Lantern Fly. We trained citizens to identify Ailanthus and explained that this invasive tree was an important part of the Lantern Fly life cycle and should be removed from landscapes and woodlands to help prevent establishment of the Lantern Fly. ACT had planned to conduct a tree tour, but there was not enough interest to do this. We hope to do the Tree Tour during the Fall Fest celebration.

New Business

1 – Drought Conditions and Dog Park Maintenance.

We are in a 3 week long severe drought following a period of very heavy spring rainfall. Brian reported that both recently planted trees and established trees are showing symptoms of drought stress. It is not possible for Public Works staff to keep up with the irrigation needs of some of these stressed trees due to staff and equipment problems. Brian also reported that Public Works is doing extensive maintenance clearing brush around the dog park. This will allow the area around the dog park to be regularly mowed. We discussed the advisability of removing a walnut tree growing near the dog park fence. ACT agreed that the walnut is a large forest tree and does not belong close to a fence. The nuts are not toxic to dogs, but do present litter and trip hazards. ACT agreed the tree should be removed.

2 – Urban Tree Master Plan for Greenbelt work session.

The work session was rescheduled to Monday, August 20 at 7:30 PM in the City Council meeting room. Brian will send ACT copies of the short and long reports to be reviewed. All ACT members plan to attend.

Next meeting Tuesday, August 14 at 7PM at Public Works.

Adjourn 8:30 PM submitted by Ethel Dutky