

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

Present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Brian Townsend (staff liaison and Assistant Director Public Works and Parks), Robert Trumbule (member), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Robin Hawley Gorsline (guest)

Call to order 7:15 PM at the Public Works Building

Reviewed and approved minutes from the August 24, 2021, meeting

### **Old Business:**

#### 1 – Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree

The Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree (ERMT), an American holly tree, was discussed. The ERMT, which was planted in year 2020, is dead. The likely cause of the tree's demise was the weather this year. It has generally been a fairly wet year, however, there was a six-week period of drought followed by more rain this summer, which likely caused too much stress for the young tree. A replacement tree will be planted during the celebration of Arbor Day in year 2022.

#### 2 – Tree Damage Replacements

Replacements for damaged Bradford pear trees in East Greenbelt were discussed. At the ACT Meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>, it was decided to alternate Chinese (lacebark) elm trees and Japanese pagoda trees. At this meeting it was suggested that the Japanese zelkova tree could be used as an alternative to the Chinese elm tree.

### **New Business**

#### 1 – Greenbelt Community Gardens

The action plan for remediating shade, managing invasive plants, and creating forest gardens in the Greenbelt Community Garden borders was discussed. This plan had been presented at the Greenbelt City Council Meeting the previous evening (Sep. 27). The plan had been developed by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board with some input from Greenbelt Community Gardeners. The plan involves removal of some large trees and also includes the planting of small trees and tall shrubs in their place. ACT members have been informed of the plan and support it.

#### 2 – Tree Plantings

B. Townsend reported the fall planting season for trees has started. A number of trees will be planted in empty spaces in various locations around Greenbelt.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:45 PM

The next ACT meeting will be October 19 at 7PM at the Public Works Building

Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Jackman