

Advisory Committee on Trees - January 17, 2023

Present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Bob Trumbule (member), Brian Townsend (Liaison and Assistant Director Public Works and Parks), Xavier Courouble (guest), Debi Sandlin (Interim Assistant City Manager).

Not present: Ethel Dutky (recorder).

Called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Reviewed minutes from November 29, 2022. Approved as corrected.

Old Business

1 – Tree planting near Greenbriar Condominiums.

At the previous ACT meeting on Nov. 29, 2022, it was decided that alternating ‘Accolade’ elm and Ginkgo biloba (male) trees could be used as the replacement street trees. Brian Townsend noted that he has had difficulty in locating ‘Accolade’ elm trees to procure. Bob Trumbule knows a vendor that might be able to provide the ‘Accolade’ elm trees. It was decided to put off finalizing the plan for this area until the next ACT Meeting.

New Business

1 – Tree Canopy Grant.

The proposed guidelines and application process for the ‘Tree Canopy Grant’ were presented by Debi Sandlin, the Interim Assistant City Manager. The City of Greenbelt received ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to help with various needs of the community. The City Council set aside \$100,000 to increase the tree canopy in Greenbelt.

There was much discussion about the reimbursement amount for homeowners, homeowners’ associations, and apartment complexes as well as the application deadline and planting time period. It was decided that: 1) Greenbelt homeowners could eligible to receive up to \$750 in reimbursement with no restriction on the size of the planted trees; and 2) homeowners’ associations and apartment complexes could receive up to \$7,000 in reimbursement with a restriction that the planted trees needed to have a diameter of at least 1.5”.

Information about the ‘Tree Canopy Grant’ and Guidelines is scheduled to be released by February 15, 2023, and that the applications would be required back to the City of Greenbelt by May 1, 2023. The applications would be reviewed by the Department of Public Works personnel as well as the Advisory Committee on Trees. The planting of these trees would take place between September 1 and November 30, 2023.

2 – Arbor Day in 2023.

It was decided that Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 15, 2023. A fast-growing Dawn redwood will be planted as a replacement tree for the former Longleaf pine in Schrom Hills Park. It was suggested by Brian Townsend that other trees be planted at the park in damaged areas, which were severely impacted by the July 12, 2022, storm. This issue will be further discussed at the next ACT meeting.

Adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7 P.M. at Public Works.
Respectfully submitted by Charles Jackman