

The meeting of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Board was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Brett Marshall at 7:35 a.m.

Present were: Brett Marshall, Chairperson
 Rob Squiers, GPSIF Representative
 Brett Smith, DPW Director
 Helen Bai, Beautification Comm. Chairperson
 Lynn Michaux, GPS Admin. Assistant/Secretary

Also Present: Mark Wollenweber, City Manager

Absent: Harold Michaux, DPW Grounds Supervisor, Vicky Boyce, Comm. Member, Daniel Schulte Council Liaison

Reports related to this meeting are either attached or placed on file.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2014 MEETING

The minutes of the January 7, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted on motion by Mr. Squiers and supported by Ms. Bai.

2014 GENERAL TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Smith reported the trimming program is back on track in large part to the additional \$15,000 approved by Council last year. Trimming will concentrate on zone #1; Lake Shore Rd. North of Vernier Rd. to Shorecrest and through Moorland. There is less trimming needed this year so the cost will be minimal. Mr. Smith stated trimming will also take place around the Municipal and DPW buildings. Mr. Squiers asked Mr. Smith to assess some trees in the Municipal lot that looked like they had a lot of dead wood at the tops. Mr. Wollenweber commented that \$8,000 for trimming is safe in the budget for this year.

TREE CITY USA STATUS

Mr. Marshall displayed material received from the Arbor Day Foundation representing Grosse Pointe Shores' 10th year as a Tree City USA City and noted the Arbor Day proclamation will be on hand at the event on May 4th.

2014 ARBOR DAY THEME – May 4, 2014

Mr. Marshall stated he ordered 150 seedling trees to pass out at this year's event. He discussed bronze plaques to identify the various memorial trees. He has researched the cost of such and stated they are very expensive. Ms. Bai will contact Bill Whetsone of Greater Detroit Landscape to inquire about the metal plaques on stakes that are

currently in the seascapes at the park. Mr. Marshall stated he is in search of a Red Dawn tree for the Ford Memorial tree and will be acquiring a Sugar Maple as the Wilson Memorial tree. The Arbor Day flyer was discussed, committee members approved of the double-sided flyer showcasing Arbor Day on one side and Fun Run on the other. Mr. Wollenweber stated that he has contacted both the Ford and Wilson representatives to invite family members to attend the presentation and planting of the trees. Ms. Bai stated she will include as part of the children's program 10 pertinent facts of each of the tree species. Ms. Michaux commented that a new resident to the Shores has generously donated the Arbor Day Fun Run t-shirts this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Marshall stated he was contacted by Frank Tenkel of 32 Roslyn Rd. regarding a female tree planted in front of his house 8 years ago. He would like the tree replaced since it was not the tree he had desired and the bearing fruit has become a nuisance. Mr. Marshall will do what needs to be done to get Mr. Tenkel another tree. Mr. Marshall also commented on an inquiry from a resident at 85 Clairview regarding two trees on the boulevard that one was believed to be leaning and the other possibly diseased. Mr. Smith will assess. Mr. Marshall stated that he contacted a resident at 43 Hawthorne Rd. that was interested in a tree planting and already has two takers for the Fall Tree Planting program.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Smith discussed Dittman Tree Service as the contractor currently providing service to the city for trimming and removals. The city is extremely pleased with the service Dittman provides. Dittman has requested a proposed 3% increase in their service fees this year. Mr. Smith stated that they have not increased their fees since they were brought on in 2009. Mr. Smith will compare pricing from neighboring communities and feels with the 3% increase they will still fall below or within competitive pricing. Mr. Smith will recommend to council to have staff use an informal bid process to retain the current vendor competitive pricing at the upcoming council meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. Motion by Bai and supported by Marshall to proceed with the recommendation; unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith also discussed two trees on the front lawn of the Municipal building that need to be addressed. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Smith have assessed the trees in question indicating that the "Schroeder" Spruce and the nearby Locust will need to be removed. The "Schroeder" Spruce has several issues due to sickness and size, it is diseased and getting too large for the area and is affecting the growth of the neighboring Beech tree. Mr. Marshall suggested planting a 16 foot Norway Spruce closer to the brick city sign as a focal point that will still include lighting for the Christmas holiday. Mr. Smith stated the Spruce to be removed was named the "Schroeder" tree after Gerald Schroeder, past Village President always requested the tree be decorated with colored Christmas lights.

On motion by Mr. Smith and supported by Ms. Bai, Mr. Smith will recommend to Council the removal of the two trees and to replace with an appropriate new spruce; unanimously approved.

Mr. Marshall stated that as Chairman of the Tree Board Committee he has requested to be put on the Tuesday, April 15, 2014 council agenda to give his annual update where he will discuss much of the topics discussed at today's meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

It was noted that the next Board meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Lynn Michaux, Secretary