

Tree Board Minutes
Tuesday October 15th, 2024, 4:30 pm
115 N 3rd Street

City Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Grand Afflerbaugh, Bill Covell, Darin DeHaan, Tyler Hagemann, Mark Herman, Cheryl Hilton, and Jordan Plock.

Mark Herman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

No public comment.

Bill Covell moved to approve the September 17th, 2024 minutes, Seconded by Mark Herman.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Membership: Darin DeHaan asked the committee if they had considered anyone to recruit to the Tree Board. He said the commitment is minimal with the committee only meeting about four times a year and helping with the Arbor Day event.

What's Next: Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation asked Darin DeHaan to join their committee as an Associate Director. Collaboration with the Soil and Water Conservation committee will provide resources for the Tree Board as well as the Sustainability Committee. He said the committee is very involved in many projects and county solar projects are reviewed by them. Mark Herman said they also hold a huge annual tree sale. He also stated the Living Lands and Waters organization provides free Oak trees through their MillionTrees project. Darin DeHaan said there were a lot of positive responses to the social media posts about the Tree Replacement program, however only a few residents have requested to have a tree planted. There are approximately five hundred available spaces. Tyler Hagemann said trees have a better chance of survival if they are planted in the fall. The committee discussed planting about twenty trees this year and if city staff would be able to manage the care of the new trees. Tyler Hagemann said watering would be minimal due to the trees going dormant. They also discussed planting new trees in places where trees were most recently removed. Mark Herman said we need to let the community know what is being done. Darin DeHaan said he is finishing the Tree City USA application. He said the Growth Award has a few requirements that would need to be met but believes it can be achieved within the next couple of years. Some of the requirements include being recognized as a Tree City USA for two consecutive years, a written tree management plan, and creating partnerships with other organizations. Tyler Hagemann said the Oregon Park District would be a great organization to partner with as they are working on phase one of the wind break by the soccer fields in park west. Darin DeHaan said the walking path that will be in the Trestle Ridge subdivision and connect to Carnation Park would be another opportunity for tree plantings in collaboration with the Park District.

Mark Herman moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm, Seconded by Jordan Plock.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Submitted by Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk.