

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, September 10, 2008
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Peter Loughlin, Chair	Everett Kern, General Foreman
John Bohenko, City Manager	Richard Adams, Vice-Chair
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	June Rogers, Member

Peter Loughlin called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

- 1. Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the August 13, 2008 meeting were accepted after change on page 3, 4th sentence “bow” should be “burl”, and delete “a red oak that is by this property”.
- 2. Tree Removal Requests: Union Cemetery** – Everett Kern stated it is in bad shape. Dick Adams stated if it comes down it will harm grave stones.

MOTION made by Dick Adams recommending the tree be removed. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

- 3. Proposed Tree Ordinance** – Dick Adams prepared a draft Ordinance and the Chair made some suggestions which the Committee discussed. The Chair thought it was beyond this Committee about trees being removed on private property. The City Manager felt it should be discussed with City Attorney's office to determine if we have the authority to do that. The Chair has legal and philosophical questions about this Committee stating if it was regular land that you couldn't go in and cut down trees. City Manager felt it should be discussed with Legal Dept. Dick Adams referred to a prior matter which brought this to his attention. Steve Parkinson stated that Dick's original idea was to address the non-residential properties. The city Manager felt it was worth discussing and perhaps discuss with the Planning Board as they set the site plan. The City Manger suggested Attorney Sullivan and Lucy Tillman be present at the next meeting. The Chair will give Attorney Sullivan the Ordinance Dick Adams' drafted together with the Chair's comments and that the Committee has questions.

Dick Adams presented the Committee with “Proposed Additions to Article VII (Prohibited Acts) of the Draft Tree Ordinance”. The Chair referred to a historical tree that the Planning Board may want to have preserved. The Chair felt it may be appropriate, for example, for this Committee to identify the championship trees in the City and keep the Planning Board aware of them and work with Peter Britz when any development comes up that is in the neighborhood of a special tree and make sure it is discussed. If identifying a tree that is on private property whether you could designate that for some type of protection without it being taken. There is a Historic District Ordinance legislation where you pick out buildings and designate them as having historical value and they receive certain protections. The City Manager suggested the City to pay compensation to somebody for an easement and care of the tree and feels the City has responsibility and will pay money to keep it.

Steve Parkinson referred to trees, bushes or shrubs that are planted and cause a traffic hazard, such as being on a corner which obstructs sight distance and the intent is that we know whether or not this would cause the City a problem with traffic hazards and which

would avoid issues of the City having to go out and cut down a tree that is causing a hazard. The Chair will send this information to the Legal Dept. for review

4. Old Business:

The Chair referred to discussion of the possibility of establishing, by Ordinance, a Trees & Greenery Committee, suggesting that this be separate from the Ordinance. There should be a Committee known as the Trees and Public Greenery Committee. The Chair felt if we decided to propose a formal designated committee to Council, it be done with the revised Ordinance, not necessarily a part of the Ordinance. The Chair will put information together and give to Attorney Sullivan.

The Chair referred to the tree that AJ suggested we need to take down. Everett Kern stated that nothing has been done, the tree went to public hearing and will be reposted. Dick Adam asked about the silver maple that is across the street, on the opposite corner and suggested a second opinion on that tree.

5. New Business:

60 Lincoln Ave. - Everett Kern asked the Chair if he would look at that tree, the resident is requesting removal, Everett Kern suggested trimming the tree.

6. Adjournment

7. Next Meeting – 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Loughlin, Chair