

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, July 8, 2009
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Peter Loughlin Chair	Everett Kern, General Forman
Richard Adams, Vice-Chair	June Rogers, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director	Carla Marvin

A.J. Dupere Absent.
Also present was Micum Davis of Cornerstone Tree.

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

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. **Tree Removal Requests:**

- 55 Elwyn Avenue – The Chair stated that the residents were out of state and asked the Committee to continue this for the next meeting. The tree is a Silver Maple that looks like it has a few problems.
846 Middle Street (tree is on Lawrence Street) – The Chair stated it is a Red Oak which is too close.
MOTION made by Richard Adams recommending removal of the tree. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.
- Market Square (tree that broken when the steeple fell) – **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson recommending removal of tree. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.
- Market Square (two trees by RiRa) – Steve Parkinson reported that RiRa will pay for replacement of one tree.
MOTION made by Steve Parkinson recommending removal of the two trees. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

Richard Adams referred to the last meeting regarding 46 Aldrich and 188 Lincoln Ave. trees, which have not been posted and will be continued to next month.

Micum Davis referred to a Silver Maple at 47 Elwyn Ave. which the Chair stated this had been continued. Micum Davis reported that the residents appreciate the tree. The tree is leaning significantly and feels it potentially poses somewhat of a threat, but feels there may be quite a bit of strength in the trunk. Suggested some crown reduction which may increase the life of the tree. The Chair stated our preference is always against removing a healthy tree unless there's a danger from one.

3. **Discussion on Memorial Tree Policy** – As the City Manager is not present will continue to next meeting.
4. **Report on Memorial Tree in Honor of Mayor Sirrell** – The chair presented the Committee with a picture of the Con Color Fir tree.

5. **Report on Langdon Park/Lincoln Avenue/Junkins Avenue Tree** – The question was whether it made sense to fill the hole. Richard Adams researched this and found nothing that supported the idea of filling it and Micum Davis concurred. Mr. Davis stated it is leaning slightly towards the rotten side which is actually good as the tension wood of the tree is the side that adds the strength to holding up the tree. It seems there is still plenty of life in the trunk wood. Micum asked if the City does any work to measure the inside of trees with an instrument to measure the resistance and can print out a draft to determine how much wood is in that? Everett Kern stated AJ mentioned testing. It is now posted and will take off the sign. AJ recommended some crown reduction. Richard Adams stated the Red Oak directly across from it is in worse shape and suggested it be pruned the same time as the other.
6. **Offer by Micum Davis of Cornerstone Tree Care to prune trees near playground equipment at Langdon Park and possibly the Oak tree at intersection of South and Junkins Avenue** – Micum Davis it seems there's a liability over the playground equipment for the Red Oak and White Oak trees. There is significant dead wood in the tree. Would like to continue to do pro bono work for the City in the future aside from organizing Arbor Days. Everett Kern will coordinate this work with Micum. The Chair thanked him.
7. **Report on City's Spring Tree Planting** – Everett Kern reported this is progressing but not yet completed. For 660 Middle St. the Sweet Bay Magnolia is available in clumps only, not available as a single tree and the species will be changed. The Chair asked Everett to give him a copy of the replacements that need to be done under warranty.
8. **South Street/Sagamore Avenue Greenery Update** – The chair presented photos and measurements of the three possible sites. The Chair stated that we need to leave enough room for a 5 ft. sidewalk if one should be planned for there. Steve Parkinson stated who is going to pay for the trees. Richard Adams suggested Red Oaks from Peter's Tree Farm. The Chair stated he may have some Pin Oaks and will explore the Cemetery with Tim Griffin.
9. **Update on Lower State Street Improvements** – Steve Parkinson reported this is still a work in progress and intend to go out to bid this week. There is allowance for a certain amount of trees but the locations will change.
10. **Letter from Annie C. Osborn, 317 Thornton Street (attached)** – Everett Kern received a letter which the Chair presented and read to the Committee. This has been addressed a few years ago, it is a Red Maple between the sidewalk and street and has been trimmed back several times and is scheduled again to be retrimmed away from the house. AJ looked at it and there really is nothing wrong with the tree.

MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to refer to Public Works Department for additional pruning and a letter back to Ms. Osborn. Seconded by City Manager. Motion passed.
11. **Report on trees at former Library, 8 Islington Street** – Everett Kern reported that the Honey Locust in front and Beech Tree have been trimmed.

12. Old Business:

1. **23 Sheffield Road** - The Chair read a letter received from Marjorie Fernald regarding the Sycamore tree. The chair will look at this tree again and send a letter to Marjorie Fernald.
2. **Memorial Tree for Clotilde Strauss** – Steve Parkinson provided the Committee with sketches of the different sites at Haven Park with explanation of the sites with a bench and plantings. It was decided on Option B on the Livermore St. side. The Chair stated that Gingko trees were one of her favorites.

June Rogers asked about publicity for the late Mayor Sirrell’s memorial tree.

Richard Adams inquired about the status of the Tree Ordinance. The Chair will check into this again.

13. Adjournment

14. **Next Meeting** – 7:30 a.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Peter J. Loughlin, Chairman