

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, February 10, 2010
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Call to Order:

Members Present: Peter Loughlin, Chairman
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director
Everett Kern, General Forman
Richard Adams, Vice-Chair
A.J. Dupere, Community Forester
Carla Marvin, Member

Also present was Micum Davis Cornerstone Tree Care, Chris Kemp
Suntree and Susan Everest.
Excused Absence: June Rogers

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 7:35 a.m.

1. **Acceptance of the Minutes** – Minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were accepted as presented.
2. **Tree Removal Requests/Proposals – 45 Lincoln Avenue** – Richard Adams would like to see the tree preserved and does not feel it's a hazard. The Chair feels it has a few more years of life. The homeowner would like to have the tree remain. AJ stated the issue is the suckers at base of the tree which is an indication that the tree has structural internal issues, as the nutrients aren't making it from the roots to the crown. Steve Parkinson referred to the Center dead limb.
MOTION made by Steve Parkinson to remove the center stem with severe rot and evaluate it after removal of the limb. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

349 Wibird Street – Two red maples requested by property owner. The chair felt if trimmed back a lot might get some additional life from them. Everett Kern stated historically had a loss of quite a few limbs. **MOTION** made by Steve Parkinson to have the tree trimmed and see what the extent of decay/rot is. Seconded by Richard Adams. Motion passed.

430 Richards Avenue – Everett Kern stated this is a resident request and he concurs. **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

66 Aldrich Road – **MOTION** made by Richard Adams to remove. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.
3. **Micum Davis Cornerstone Tree Care, et al – Arbor Day Pruning Proposal** – Micum explained that in effort to raise money for Haitian relief in a way connected to Portsmouth would like to donate their time and resources to prune trees for health in a public space while seeking sponsors from businesses and individuals in support of their efforts. Their efforts are to raise money for the children uneducated and under privileged people of Haiti. Chose a non-profit organization called Life and Hope Haiti as they are small enough to utilize majority of the donation which focusing on education, healthcare and the country's future through the support of children. This effort is aligned with the mission of Seacoast Arbor's Collaborative stating that we are owner's, operators of small tree care companies on the Seacoast volunteering all resources to benefit our community through the care of neglected public trees. It is becoming clear that we are a world community and because we fell lucky to benefit from the richness of life on the Seacoast sense an obligation to raise these funds in an effort to extend a fraction of our wealth to this other part of the world. Our fiscal sponsor provides receipts for donations so that donors can write off their contributions. We have a web page and a pay pal account to collect funds and to show how much has been donated and for people who donated to have a place where they can show they donated. We prefer to use City Parks. We plan on doing this in early April before we get too busy. Arbor Day is the 30th when we are targeting Peirce Island for a project. The Haitian Relief project is just Suntree and Cornerstone Tree Care at Goodwin Park. Arbor Day would be all six organizations. The Chair will

forward the letter to the City Manager. This will be publicized by WSGR, 101.5 a non-profit radio station offered us a 60 second spot, and Micum will send out e-mails to individuals and businesses. Chris Kemp stated they will focus on word of mouth.

Steve Parkinson stated this needs to go to the City Manager.

MOTION made by Richard Adams that the Tree Committee recommends supporting the request. Seconded by Steve Parkinson. Motion passed.

4. **Peirce Island Committee Request for Trees** – The Chair stated the Seacoast Arborists Collaborative are going to do some pruning and the Peirce Island Committee is interested in having trees planted. The Chair suggested they come up with a list of places where they would like to see some trees and bring to this Committee. They asked if the City has money in the budget for trees? Chris Kemp explained that the focus on Peirce Island is a tremendous naturalized area that has a lot more maintenance issues, but given the time and resources we're donating we'll target the hazardous issues, things at risk for people walking the trails, a lot of dead branches, dead standing trees and will focus on these issues as an initial start to get the park to where the Committee wants it to be. There is one tree as you pull into the park, a focus, a mature American Elm tree which seems to be healthy but there are vines growing into it, deposits around the base and we thought we'd use this as an introduction and focus on this tree, clean around the base, put mulching, etc. and then bring our equipment into the park and do the maintenance issues. The Committee expressed their gratitude.

Steve Parkinson suggested bringing this to the City Manager and asked them to provide Certificates of Insurance prior to Arbor Day.

5. **Tree Sites for 2010** – Dick Adams started a list and suggested trying to have this next month in order to look at late April, early May planting. Everett reported he has had a few requests and may receive more.
6. **Lincoln Ave. Sewer Separation Project** – The Chair looked at the trees, made some notes and will send them to the members. Steve Parkinson stated he will check with Peter Rice to see where we are, it has not yet been bid. The trees will be posted so residents will be aware of what is being done and why. Prior to the next meeting we should look at the trees for recommendations and the Chair will e-mail the members and coordinate available dates and times.
7. **Tree Ordinance Status** – Will be addressed at the next meeting.
8. **Old Business:**

Everett Kern referred to the recommended trees, suggesting that before going out looking at them either concur or not concur as he doesn't want to post trees that are not necessarily being removed. The trees will be posted in April and will try to meet in March and have Peter Rice, et al at the next meeting to go through our recommendations with him.

Dick Adams referred to a large tree that was taken down by a private tree co. on Maplewood Ave. heading towards intersection at Woodbury. Everett Kern will ride by and take a look to see if it was on City property.

Dick Adams asked Everett Kern if he would provide a list of recent tree removals.

9. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7:30 a.m.
10. **Adjourned.**