

Avian and Tree Committee Joint Meeting

Monday, January 3, 2020, 10 am City Hall

Attendees:

Avian Committee: Chairperson Selena Proksa, Carol Zimmerman, Bev Leonard, Jill Rodriguez, Sarah McConnell, Kelley Happ

Dept. of Public Works: Director Tom Earle; Superintendent Neil Waswo; Arborist Jon Foster

Tree Committee, Candace Kirchberg

City Administrator, David Nord

Alderwoman Cindy Flowers

Call to order. 10:00 am

Approval of minutes of last meeting

Agenda:

Task 1 Complete the Bird City Application with input from the City of Lake Geneva administrators, the Tree Committee and the City Arborist.

Carol discussed the mission for the Bird City application. There are 67 criteria in 6 categories and all require documentation. The committee needs to fill in a number of blanks and show documentation in a number of areas. Specific questions and answers below are based on the application areas needed to be completed:

Section 2A Need Tree City application document, packet to go to Carol Zimmerman

2B. Moratorium - NO, never done

2C. Tom -The city is moving more toward the use of native species when trees are planted/ replaced. Of the 80 trees planted last year, 75% were native species. Four Seasons Park is all native trees. (See budget for documentation). Last year the Public Works planted 80 container trees (faster, better growth) city saves 50% of cost when done in-house, Documentation-copy of 2019 purchase order (Dave Nord will provide this)

Cindy - do we want an ordinance within Building and Zoning for native species in private landscaping?

Candy will be helping to rewrite landscape site planning to include more details. Including fees, fines and timelines.

2E. Certified arborist Jon Foster is on staff

1C. Legal protection of existing bird habitat does not exist. They go by rules of the DNR and common state laws. There are 5 weeds on the noxious weed list, working on a city mowing ordinance and defining non-turf landscape - Tom

I. Document recent project - Four Seasons Nature Area, no more tree planting, now they maintain. Maintain 20 bird houses - wood ducks, bluebirds and purple martins.. Public Works restores and fixes them each winter, if there is extra wood they will make extra birdhouses - Tom Earle

M. Residents can attend Tree Committee meetings for more information, but the committee doesn't deal with private property, Building and Zoning Department does. Noted that the County Extension service will help provide information about invasive species - add this link to our document

N. Hard to show line items

O. No - Cindy is looking to do this in the future

S. None

U. City clear cut along the old railroad last year and plan to do native plantings. Need to be careful that plantings don't get too high and impair sight

3C. Three people are licensed to apply pesticides - Tom will get

documentation. This is done as needed, not on a regular basis

3D. No city buildings are Leeds certified at the present time

E. Lake Geneva does have a cat-at-large ordinance - Tom

G Dark Sky. # 98-707 that regulates dark sky

I. No

J. No - Dave

K. Nothing within Building & Zoning

4F This is through the Geneva Lake Conservancy

4G Dave is working on this

4H. Jill and Carol

4J. Library - No, we need a sign describing the value of native species

5 Energy

5A No current energy audits on municipal buildings. Two or 3 years ago the city went through every building

B, C and D - No

E. Switched from sodium vapor to LED lights; use solar power on kiosk - Neal

3 G & H tower and light regulations. - Tower regulation, small cellular ordinance several years ago - State, FCC and utility rulings apply. Cannot pass an ordinance to prohibit

6A. Resolution by the City Council

Task 2. What Can We Do?

Discussion about what the Avian Committee can do to help encourage beautification and native plantings on public property throughout the city. The Mill Creek area is now mulched - could be planted, but there is no money to weed it - (Tom) Suggested that the Avian committee get in touch with the beautification committee. Get requirements for the GLC's new Conserve@home project. Show cost/benefit of native plants Take advantage of sponsorships to help fund beautification/native plantings.

Committee members liked the idea of plantings around the little pond by the museum. This area is hard for the city to mow, and is very visible to the public. Also liked the idea of a joint committee with partners from private and other benefactors.

Adjourn: Moved by Carol Zimmerman and seconded by Sarah McConnell, approved unanimously at 11:10 am

Respectfully submitted: Kelley Happ

