

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 3rd 2017

Gary Stachowicz, Hillsdale City Forester called the Shade Tree meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.

Board members present: Dr. Maria Bidny, Bud Heinowski, Barb Vallieu, Jake Hammel and Board of Public Utilities Director Mike Barber. Councilman Bruce Sharp attended the meeting for a few minutes as well. Board member Angie Girdham was not in attendance. Dr. Bidny made the motion to excuse Angie from the meeting. Motion was seconded by Barb Vallieu and carried unanimously.

Approval of minutes: Dr. Bidny made the motion to accept the minutes from the February 1st 2017 meeting as presented. Motion was carried by Jake Hammel and carried unanimously.

Public comments: None.

Old Business:

- A. Tree City USA award. Gary informed the committee that on April 11th 2017, he attended the State of Michigan awards luncheon in Lansing Michigan for those cities in Michigan that were recertified as Tree City USA recipients by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This marks the 39th year in a row that Hillsdale has received this distinction. He also mentioned that this is the 40th year of the Tree City USA program nationwide. Adrian and Royal Oak, MI have received the honor all forty years that the program has been in existence.

New Business:

- A. Mike Barber was not on the agenda but was invited by DPS Director Jake Hammel to discuss the possibility of Department of Public Services having access to the Wright Tree Service crews that BPU subcontracts for line clearance. DPS is looking into the possibility of having a contractor to help with tree trimming/tree removals relating to storm damage that are above the capacity of what DPS crews can handle. DPS would only want access to those crews only after they were finished clearing lines for BPU. Mike suggested contacting Sean McCarthy of American Electric Power to see if there is a possibility of having a crew available for storm damage work. American Electric Power (Sean McCarthy) is the contractor that BPU uses to mark the trees that need to be trimmed away from BPU electric lines.

In addition to this, Gary wanted to inform Mike of the prior arrangement that DPS and BPU had as it relates to line clearance/removal of city owned trees. Gary said he would forward that information on to Mike for his review.

- B. Tree planting locations: Included in the Shade Tree packets was the list of this year's tree planting locations. Twenty seven trees were planted this year. Eleven trees were purchased from Lake County Nursery out of Perry Ohio and sixteen trees were purchased from Lodi Farms out of Parma Michigan. All trees were planted using in-house labor. Gary mentioned that Richard Gamble the resident who lives at 65 S. Howell St purchased a crimson king maple tree from Gleis Orchards and had it planted in the city terrace in front of his residence. The tree was planted as part of the

city's Public Tree Planting program. Mr. Gamble expressed his interest in planting more trees in the future around his neighborhood within the right of way as part of the tree planting program.

- C. Tree valuation (Hillsdale College): As part of Hillsdale College's new Cathedral building project, the college requested five city owned trees be removed along the south side of Galloway Drive between N. West St and Hillsdale St. Gary valued these five trees at \$4,266.72. The trees have been paid for and the money deposited into the Major Street Restitution Fund. The money will be used to purchase trees in the future to be planted along major streets around the city.
- D. Tree valuations (41 Highland Ave): Gary said that Mr. Scott Pienta, a resident who resides at 41 Highland Ave, wanted to obtain permission from the city to remove some trees along the right of way in order to construct a new garage on a vacant parcel of land he had just purchased next to his home. Gary said that although the trees were not planted by the city they had some value and Mr.Pienta was willing to pay the values which totaled \$682.00. This money will go into the Local Street Restitution Fund for planting along local streets.
- E. Arbor Day: As an added agenda item, Gary mentioned that this year Arbor Day was celebrated by giving a tree planting demonstration to the first grade students at Gier Elementary School. Diane Miller and Colleen Savarino of the Hillsdale Garden Club gave a presentation to the children on how Arbor Day started and the importance trees make in our lives after which each student was given a serviceberry seedling to take home and plant.

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Bidny made a motion to adjourn the Shade Tree meeting at 3:49 P.M. Motion was seconded by Bud Heinowski and carried unanimously. The next Shade Tree meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 2nd at 3:00 P.M in the second floor conference room at city hall.