

Minutes Tree Committee (and Tree Tenders)

January 31, 2018

Present: Tom Cajka, Chair; Patty Babinsack; Chuck Dizard; Anthony Resnick; Sue Vertosick

Unable to attend: Chip Miller, Robin Bergstrom, Ken Crisafio, Sharon Ellis, Bill Godfrey, Jennifer Luzik

1. Tom presented proposal for Fall 2018 TreeVitalize application that is due mid-March. Proposal is ten trees along ballfield side of California Avenue, two trees by the tennis court benches on the corner of California Avenue and 12th Avenue, and four trees on the plateau ground outside the stadium on the corner of Argonne Drive and 12th Avenue.

Highlands School District is very supportive, including Superintendent Bjalobok, Athletic Director Chuck Debor, and Middle School Principal Kim Price.

TreeVitalize forester will come up and evaluate the proposal planting locations and recommend tree species appropriate for the location.

Funding is very tight and approval of the application will depend on Western Pennsylvania Conservancy securing funding.

2. Discussed the possibility of distributing a flier inviting residents along a few streets to participate with a TreeVitalize application for Spring 2019. This could be along the flood prone area around Lane, Liberty, Pennsylvania, Dallas, and Princeton. Also, along the block on Union from Idaho to Montana.
3. Discussed idea for the future with the Township inviting interested residents to purchase mature locally grown from Eisler's Nursery in Butler for trees for private yard planting. The Township would have a wholesale purchase agreement with Eisler's and residents would pay the Township the cost of the trees (around \$100). The Township would pick up the trees, dig the planting pit, and provide mulch and tree stakes. This would require an educational process with residents and agreement by the Township to organize the program.
4. Discussed project of developing the river front area in Natrona, from Sycamore to the dam, cleaning away the underbrush and invasive bushes and trees along the river bank, and planting native trees appropriate for the river bank area. To apply for Pennsylvania funding, a planning grant would be needed to have a shovel-ready professional design prepared. Sue Vertosick has worked with many local foundations that may be interested in this project; sue will contact these foundations.

Next meeting will be scheduled after the TreeVitalize grant is submitted.

(minutes prepared by Chuck Dizard)