

**REGULAR MEETING
OAKDALE TREE BOARD
City of Oakdale
March 12, 2019**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Tree Board of the City of Oakdale was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue North, Oakdale, Minnesota. Chair Klein called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

Chair: Jane Klein
Members: Nick Kantola
Stan Karwoski
Dallas Pierson
Mike Saarela
Marge Sagsetter
Bob Stiglich

Absent Diana Crea
Bill Rasmussen
Cathie Schreifels
Colleen Swedberg, Council Representative

Also Present: Loren Cota, City Forester

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Klein noted that both January 15, 2019 and March 12, 2019 Tree Board minutes will be approved at the June Tree Board meeting.

OPEN FORUM

Joint Workshop with City Council

City Council will be advised tonight of the tree selections for Arbor Day, April 27. Choices are Balsam Fir, Asian Pear, Mountain Ash and Northern Catalpa.

Forester Cota responded that Balsam Fir trees are not available until May 15th and will not be offered. He could replace with Kentucky Coffee tree or Black Hill Spruce but has concerns regarding the Spruce.

Member Kantola confirmed that Black Hill Spruce have mite and fungal disease issues and does not do well in our environment. The Kentucky Coffee tree is a native tree, tolerates our soil environment and works with compacted soils. Board agreed on Kentucky Coffee tree as an alternate.

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Community Tree Planting Project – May 4, 2019

Chair Klein noted this will be discussed at the City Council Workshop at 6:15pm. Forester Cota is working with the designer and will order plants soon.

Buckthorn Project

Forester Cota announced he is trying to coordinate with Oakdale Park but the exact location has yet to be determined. There is little left for a chainsaw at Oakdale Park but crew can use brush cutters and provide loppers for kids, which will eliminate the need to chip.

Chair Klein responded that from past experience, kids who volunteer enjoy the visual of stacking, hauling and chipping and find it very rewarding to participate.

Forester Cota will find a place in the city that would work better for the kids.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Klein reported on the following:

- Nineteen Master Gardeners signed up for Arbor Day Tree Giveaway and will help with pruning, root checking, dipping and general information.
- Nine Master Gardeners signed up for Buckthorn Round-up and Spring Planting.

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day 2020

Chair Klein would like ideas for the 2020 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway. Choices might be Blue Beach, Ironwood, fruit trees such as Chestnut Crabapple or Frostbite Crabapple.

Member Kantola asked for clarification on the Ironwood tree; assumes it is the Ostrya Virginiana which is a good tree that grows well here and flowers nicely. Also asked if it's possible to pre-order trees from a nursery or ask Bailey's to hold stock for us, possibly for the 2020 season.

Forester Cota replied that if we don't get our bare root trees from Bailey's Nursery we would need a nursery license. He will try contacting them earlier for 2020.

Chair Klein noted that ordering from more than one nursery makes us a distributor. By using one nursery and giving trees to residents, we are exempt. She also stated that in the past they have ordered late in season and didn't get desired trees.

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NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Klein noted the following will be included on the June agenda:

- A. Review Arbor Day
- B. Planting – Oak Field Park

Forester Cota confirmed that last year's design will be followed for the remaining section. It was well organized last year with flags so people could plant one species the whole way and plans to follow that system again.

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Chair Klein reviewed the agenda items to be discussed. Typically, an election of officers would be held but more discussion is needed. Topics will include:

- Definition of board vs. commission.
- Increased presence at city functions.
- City website updates to include schedule and minutes.
- Increase board members to twelve which will allow for longer terms.

Chair Klein mentioned Deb Moellner will not be reappointed and Bill Rasmussen will continue. She expressed our board consists of business people, arborists, Master Gardeners, tree care advocates, residents and a County Commissioner which bring with them years of experience and dedication. A roster was provided and will become final once city council approves.

TERM LIMITS

Forester Cota mentioned that council has concerns regarding term limits. Limits have been waived in past but could change with new council. Fears that board will dissipate if limits are created.

Member (unknown) considers this board different than other commissions because it is so specialized. We need commitment and knowledge for this group that you wouldn't get from a broad based, rotating group. Mentioned that St. Paul Tree Board is thinking of changing to an Advisory Council which would remove all power they may have.

Chair Klein stated that St. Paul Tree Board does not share the strong membership that Oakdale has which makes them volatile. Encourages board to express comments and concerns to council regarding term limits as well as members serving on only one commission at a time. Tree Board has a few members that are on other commissions.

Member Karwoski believes his status as a board member should be resident rather than ex officio. He could be a resident and just attend meetings but intent was to be a board member to

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contribute. When Tree Board was founded there were no term limits and members were sought from other commissions. Asked if no one has a term would board start from scratch?

Member (unknown) asked if council wants to change the Tree Board to a commission?

Member Karwoski stated that to be a Tree City you need a Tree Board.

Chair Klein read the Tree City Standards which state the city must have a tree board that stems from a group of citizens, started by mayor or other elected official, which will benefit residents, business owners and community.

Chair Klein stated that boards and commissions are interchangeable and rules are the same, advisory in nature. Cities and public government agencies use commissions and the private sector use boards or advisories. In our case, we use board for our Tree City USA status and to have flexibility to work with other agencies. Oakdale was one of the first Tree Boards formed.

ADJOURNMENT

**IT WAS MOVED BY MEMBER KANTOLA SECONDED BY MEMBER SAARALA TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE TREE BOARD AT 6:11 P.M.**

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| Ayes | 7 | Abstain | 0 |
| Nays | 0 | Motion Carried | |

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Buhl, Recording Secretary