MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY OF PEORIA: URBAN FORESTRY
ADVISORY BOARD

March 7, 2017

A Regular Meeting of the City of Peoria’s Urban Forestry Advisory Board convened at 12:07 p.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the Lester D. Bergsten Operations & Maintenance Facility located at 3505 N. Dries Lane, Peoria, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order showed the following Urban Forestry Advisory Board Members in attendance:

**Members Present:** Chairman Sie Maroon, Board Member Jason Haupt, Board Member Joseph Keck, Board Member Ella Maxwell, Board Member Amy McLaren, Board Member Michael Price, Board Member Richard Swigart, and Board Member, Michael Wilkins. (9)

**Members Absent:** None (0).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** National Arbor Day is Friday, April 28, 2017. Arbor Day, observed each year on the last Friday in April, is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. The location of where the event will take place, this year, is to be determined.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** No one came forward to address the Board from the public.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the December 6, 2016, were distributed prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved by Board Member Amy McLaren, and seconded by Board Member Michael Wilkins.

**ITEM NO. 1 Discussion of Landscape and Tree Ordinance**

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 A FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 29 of the CODE of the CITY OF PEORIA Pertaining to TREES AND SHRUBS. Board Member Michael Wilkins informed the Board of suggestions that were made to these proposed changes by Morton Arboretum, and copies of this information were distributed. Board Members will research and analyze this information, and it may be implemented at a later date.

**ITEM NO. 2 Consideration of Certified Arborist Workshops and Examinations**

Public Works’ Program Supervisor, Shawn Johnson, will be attending Certified Arborist Workshops in order to prepare for examinations.
Board Member Ella Maxwell suggests that a paid position be created for a Certified Arborist for the City of Peoria, so that the necessary level of commitment will be met.

**ITEM NO. 3  Consideration of Tree Risk Management Policy Workshop**

Board Member Michael Wilkins presented a copy of the Chicago Region Trees Initiative Ordinance to the Board to view with consideration. The Chicago Region Trees Initiative, Trees and Green Infrastructure Work Group has developed three tree preservation ordinance templates.

An effective tree preservation ordinance is one that is based on an urban forest management plan. However, many Governmental Entities do not have an UFMP in place. This three tiered ordinance structure allows your Governmental Entity a point to become engaged and opportunities to move to a higher level of ordinance as your time and resources permit.

The **Bronze ordinance** is the basic tree preservation ordinance and assumes the Governmental Entity does not have an urban forest management plan and does not regulate trees on private property. This ordinance sets the stage for community engagement to develop an UFMP and progression to the Silver tiered ordinance, and must be maintained, at minimum.

The **Silver ordinance** recognizes a Governmental Entity UFMP, based on the U.S. Forest Service and Davey Resource Group Sustainable Urban Forestry Guide as its foundation. By basing your ordinance on an UFMP, a Governmental Entity can update the UFMP as needed without the challenges of revising an ordinance. The UFMP should be reviewed annually.

The **Gold ordinance** includes the same criteria of the Silver ordinance but also provides for regulation of the urban forest on private property. Typically, 70% of the urban forest within a Governmental Entity is on private property. It is critical that proper care, preservation and planting of trees on private property be incentivized or regulated. The Governmental Entity has many examples of collective management. For instance, the storm water ordinance regulates the flow of water across land uses and ownerships, or building permits and inspections are required for building changes or construction. The Gold level tree ordinance preserves and protects the community as a whole.

The urban forest is a collective resource that we all rely on for physical and mental health, improved property values, air and water quality, storm water reduction, wildlife habitat, and other services.

Each community, county, park district, forest preserve and private property owner has invested significant financial and physical resources in development of the urban forest. Each Governmental Entity or individual spends money installing trees yet far fewer dollars are spent to maintain trees. Larger trees provide larger benefits. These trees are a collective asset that deserve and require protection to reach their potential. This urban forest resource needs to be preserved, protected and managed skillfully in order for it to perform to its potential and for us to receive optimal benefits.
NEW BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Urban Forestry Advisory Board will be held Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Board Member Ella Maxwell moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Urban Forestry Advisory Board; seconded by Board Member Jason Haupt.

Approved by via voice vote.

The Board meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

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Chairman, Sie Maroon
Deputy Director/ Superintendent of Operations