PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020
12:00 P.M.

DATES SET:

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING – To be held at the Lester D. Bergsten Operations & Maintenance Building, Conference Room #113, 3505 N. Dries Lane, Peoria, Illinois 61604.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 @ 12:00 p.m.
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING – To be held at the Lester D. Bergsten Operations & Maintenance Building, Conference Room #113, 3505 N. Dries Lane, Peoria, Illinois 61604.

PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDAS AND MINUTES ISSUED BY:
SIE MAROON, CHAIRMAN via the
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
3505 N. Dries Lane
(309) 494-8850
INTERNET ADDRESS: www.peoriagov.org

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*CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA SHOULD CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER PRIOR TO THE MEETING. ALL OTHER PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE HEARD UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING.

NOTE: THE ORDER IN WHICH AGENDA ITEMS ARE CONSIDERED MAY BE MOVED FORWARD OR DELAYED BY AT LEAST 2/3 VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT.

THE PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD MEETS IN REGULAR BUSINESS SESSIONS THE FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER) AT 12:00 P.M. AT LESTER D. BERGSTEN OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FACILITY CONFERENCE ROOM, 3505 N. DRIES LANE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

*NOTICES OF ANY SPECIAL MEETING ARE POSTED AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR.
ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

MINUTES

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

AGENDA ITEMS:

ITEM NO. 1 APPROVAL of December 3, 2019 Minutes
ITEM NO. 2 PUFAB Officer positions
ITEM NO. 3 2020 Financials

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

June 3, 2020

ADJOURNMENT
MEETING MINUTES
OF THE CITY OF PEORIA
: PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD :

December 3, 2019

A Regular Meeting of the City of Peoria’s Urban Forestry Advisory Board convened at 12:08 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at the Lester D. Bergsten Operations & Maintenance Facility located at 3505 N. Dries Lane, Conference Room 113, Peoria, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

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

Members Present: Becky Cobb, Matt Freeman, Ella Maxwell, Mike Price, Randy Swenson, Michael Wilkins – 6

Members Absent: Haley Brewer; Amy McLaren – 2

Others in attendance: Doug McCarty; Superintendent of Operations Sie Maroon; Public Works Program Supervisor Shawn Johnson; PeoriaCorp Crew Supervisor Darren Graves; Administrative Assistant Patti Pitcher.

Mr. McCarty’s appointment expired mid-year 2019, but he’s interested in renewing. Mr. Maroon explained there’s been ongoing discussions with the Mayor’s Office regarding membership discrepancies and he’ll be sure to address this one and report back.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM NO. 1 APPROVAL of June 4, 2019 MINUTES

Mr. Wilkins requested a couple of minor edits on page 3 to clarify Emerald Ash Borer infestation; seconded by Mr. Swenson, including the edits.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

ITEM NO. 2 2019 FINANCIALS

- In 2019, approximately $24,000 - $25,000 was spent on replacement trees.
- Mr. Johnson and Mr. Graves assess trees City-wide. Those 12" diameter and under are handled by City crews (Forestry or PeoriaCorps); larger trees are handled by contractors who, in turn, chip the downed trees into mulch, given away every Spring. This year, all the free mulch was depleted, but the giveaway included both City and County residents unlike recent giveaways.
Not all budget funds were utilized. Mr. Maroon would like to spend all the funds, but the inability to do so is due mostly to manpower issues. Only two (2) laborers in Forestry, Ms. Maxwell helped with plantings through Hoerr Nursery.

- Unused funds roll into the City’s General Fund then a “new” line item amount is reinstated for the following year’s budget.

ITEM NO. 3  TREES

- Trees replaced in the right-of-way (ROW) are typically burlap balls. Those in residential areas are container trees.
- When trees are removed, the City automatically replaces in the same general area.
- Brief discussion was had regarding now-defunct reimbursement program for private property trees.
- Mr. Maroon asked Committee members to notify Mr. Graves of areas throughout the City where trees are needed. Mr. Graves suggested emailing him as his crews are all over the City and often more readily available than Mr. Johnson.

ITEM NO. 4  ASH TREE STATUS – Quantity, Removals, Existing

- City is no longer treating Ash trees every two to three years.
- Mr. Wilkins emphasized the importance of propagating unless/until Emerald Ash Borer is obsolete.
- Members reported stump grinding in the City isn’t being done 100%, it’s more of a “construction” grind, leaving a smaller opening and old roots.
- Mr. Johnson reported 1,087 total trees in the ROW; 372 removed; 715 remain.
- The City of Peoria is comprised of 15% Ash tree; 40% Maple.
- JIMAX is the main contractor, but A Cut Above assists when there’s a backlog.
- Tree trimming is done in-house, on an as-needed basis due to lack of labor resources.
- Reinstated street sweepers City-wide on a rotation basis to keep curbs and inlets clear (as much as possible).
- Low-hanging limbs are also trimmed or lifted to prevent damage to sweepers, plows and other vehicles.
- PeoriaCorps doesn’t use power tools, only manual tools.
- Mr. Graves explained he’s training a new PeoriaCorps group every six months. He’s open to on-site training or having tree experts come in to train. Next group will be in March 2020.

ITEM NO. 5  2020 FINANCIALS

- Mr. Maroon reported while cuts have been made throughout the City’s recently-approved 2020 Budget, none of them impacted Forestry. The budget line items remain as follows: Removals $200,000; Mowing/Landscape $525,800; Replacements $60,000.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Brief discussion was had regarding ownership of private trees overhanging City ROW. The City’s current practice is to notify the property owner and trim only within the City’s ROW; anything beyond that is the property owner’s responsibility.
Ms. Cobb asked if her previous efforts to incorporate PUFAB into CSO projects resulted in any feedback; Mr. Maroon said it has not, but he appreciated her efforts. However, for infrastructure projects, PUFAB will now be included.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Maroon was curious why so many trees in the 2015 windstorm were uprooted, especially evergreens. Mr. Wilkins explained it was a 60mph easterly wind — rather than the standard westerly wind — so it was harder for the trees to withstand.

Mr. Wilkins asked if the Committee is interested in participating in public events (trade shows) and/or visiting schools to educate the public regarding local vegetation, plantings, ideal locations. No objections as long as Mr. Wilkins spearheads the events. He agreed to Chair if year-to-year. No objections. He requested a tri-fold for information, training materials and possibly handouts. (He’ll see if J.U.L.I.E. is willing to sponsor some promo items.) Advertising would be critical — PSAs (radio, TV), Homeshows. Will need volunteers to run the booths at the various events and will utilize the Membership Roster. Next Homeshow is February 2020. Mr. Wilkins is to submit a checklist to Mr. Maroon of items needed.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Peoria Urban Forestry Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at noon.** Ms. Pitcher will send an email the week prior for Agenda items and attendance plans to ensure a quorum will be had.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Ms. Maxwell made a Motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Freeman. The Board meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Chairman, Sie P. Maroon

/pmp