

MINUTES
October 24, 2018
BATAVIA TREE COMMISSION

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Commission and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

1. Meeting Called To Order

Chairman Scott Haines called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the City of Batavia Public Works Facility, located at 200 North Raddant Road in Batavia, Illinois.

Members Present: Commissioners Scott Haines, Gary Holm, Bob Lootens, Bob Burtch, Anna Bakker, and Kathy Vranek; City Arborist Frank Saupp

Members Absent: Commissioner Kevin Summers

Others Present: John Higgins (arrived at 5:10 p.m.); Kathy Montanari, Recording Secretary

2. Current Projects and Developments – Update

Commissioners discussed the Prairie Commons development, located on the east side of Kirk Road. Lootens asked about tree removals near the fence line. He wanted to save as many trees as possible and expressed concern about a 25" oak. Haines noted that one large oak was in the middle of a pond location and couldn't be kept. Summers noted that some oak trees were removed to create an access to the prairie path.

Two major sewer projects were recently completed on the east and west side of town. One went through the West Batavia Cemetery and on to Morton to Jefferson. The other was in the 14th Colony subdivision at Kirk/Giese. Both had minimal impact to the tree canopy. The Giese Road project will continue with additional phases. Holm shared that the Main Street reconstruction project will bid out early in 2019; there may be impacts to the tree canopy. Haines noted that he had avoided planting new parkway trees there for the past few years since the road will be repositioned.

A multi- and single-family development at McKee and Deerpath was reviewed. It will be similar to the Prairie Commons development. The site does not contain many high-quality trees.

The Park District Eastside Community Center parking lot project required the removal of trees, but the sugar and Norway maples were in poor condition. Lootens asked if the Park District would be planting new trees, and Haines said he would share the plans.

Commissioners briefly discussed future plans for City property on North River Street (former Larsen-Becker property). Holm explained that the bike path would eventually be extended.

Haines asked if commissioners had any ideas for planting small seedlings next year. Areas mentioned were Giese Road and Raddant Road south of Wind Energy Pass. Haines is planning

to deal with ROW trees near Davey Farm in the City's right-of-way, similar to one completed on Pine west of Raddant. The appearance of that area has been greatly improved.

3. Other

The Joint Tree meeting was postponed until spring, 2019. If anyone has ideas for locations and topics, please notify Haines.

Haines will contact Possibility Place Nursery to find out the status of oak seedlings.

There was a discussion about new species to use for the 50/50 Parkway Tree Program, one of which was Black Tupelo (*Nyssa*). The trees are available from Possibility Place and have nice fall color.

Commissioners talked about best practice for removal of rope at the base of new trees and planting levels. Haines said the rope is non-treated/bio-degradable and should not restrict growth. Parkways can be a challenging area and there have been past issues with trees becoming unstable. If the rope/burlap is still intact during a subsequent inspection, it is cut back. Perhaps other approaches can be discussed at a future meeting.

Tree removals on Island Avenue were then discussed. The property owner removed private trees, and the City later planted some trees in the parkway after the sidewalk widening. Bakker asked if it would be worthwhile to look at having a tree preservation ordinance. Holm commented that there would need to be good support from the Tree and Environmental Commissions.

It was decided that a walk through at Prairie Commons would be done in the next few days. Commissioners would be notified of the exact day and time.

4. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Holm and seconded by Lootens to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by
Kathy Montanari