

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

March 8, 2011

Members Present: Francis Moul; Emily Casper; John Williams, Andy Campbell, Larry Anderson and Robert Smith, Chair
Members Absent: Scott Hofeling and Larry Anderson
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Jerry Shorney, JJ Yost, Mark Canney and Janet Ball
Staff Absent:

Robert Smith called the meeting to order and noted that the Open Meeting Law was posted. Robert stated that Ben Cohoon's name was misspelled in February's minutes. Approval of minutes: Andy made the motion to approve the February minutes as corrected, Emily seconded, voted: minutes approved.

Mark Canney and JJ Yost with the Parks Planning Department joined the meeting so Robert had everyone introduce themselves.

Arbor Day Event

Lynn stated that we have talked to Lincoln Public Schools regarding the number of trees to plant at the school. Parks plans to plant a total of 5 trees on the Rock Island bike trail and at Bishop Heights park. Once the number of trees is determined and the program is set, Janet will sent invitations to the City Council members and others to join us at the celebration. If anyone has people they would like to invite, please send that information to Janet.

Mark asked about tree species for planting and stated that "Grow bag" trees are an educational tool to use. Mark has talked to Todd Faller with Faller Nursery regarding species for Arbor Day. Andy Campbell suggested Elm species, but also stated that if we got a tree list to him soon, he would get them at cost for us.

Further discussion took place regarding different Elm species and where they are currently planted. The Rock Island bike trail behind Rousseau School has Red Sunset Maples and some Austrian Pine trees currently planted there. Francis suggested that we plant Walnut and "nut" producing trees for the wildlife. He also would like to see shrubs with berries planted. Lynn stated that Parks avoids planting shrubs for security reasons.

Andy stated that we will need to stay 30 to 40 feet away from well heads.

Comprehensive Plan

Lynn stated that every 5 years the City does a minor update to the Comp plan and every 10 years we do a major update to the plan. This year it is time to update the 10 year plan but all items mentioned for the next 30 year plan must have a funding idea(s) with it due to a Federal Government guideline.

Lynn shared a copy of the previous plan and a draft of an updated plan. Discussion regarding the plan took place and the following suggestion were made:

1. An evaluation process and pruning cycle added
2. How to budget to be able to continue planting street trees
3. Strengthen our volunteer base for planting
4. Amend City Development Design Standards to have new developments plant street trees on private property behind the walk.
5. Continue with our Tree City USA and Growth Award status

Emily suggested having 2 standards so we address issues of Residential vs Arterial/business lined streets and their individual needs.

John suggested having newer subdivisions set up an Homeowners Association, such as Fallbrook and Village Gardens, and make the association responsible for street trees including trimming and/or removals. Andy stated that a foundation should be set with each HOA to cover costs

Robert talked about setting tree improvement districts and what the requirements for that would be. Lynn suggested a tree preservation ordinance to preserve trees. This would require subdivisions to be designed around existing trees. Part of the Land Subdivision process is: inventory, identify, minimize impact and mitigation, plant 2 trees for each tree removed. Robert suggested checking Buff Abby's website for LSU Greenlaws for ordinance information.

Lynn request that Board members get their suggestions for a Subdivision draft to Janet to compile and it was unanimously agreed to hold a meeting April 14th to discuss this.

Francis made the motion to adjourn, voted meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Ball
Recording Secretary

Proposed Revisions

Urban Forest

Discussion Draft – April 5, 2011

DESCRIPTION

- Include a statement that research indicates that street trees enhance the values of adjoining residences, and enhance the economic vitality of commercial districts;
- Include a statement regarding the benefits of trees in slowing down storm water runoff.
- Include a statement regarding the public health and social benefits of urban trees.
- Include a statement that the City of Lincoln is primarily responsible for management of public trees along streets and in parks

OTHER LOCATION AND DESIGN CRITERIA

Continue to promote planting and management of street trees along all public streets within the corporate limits, and planting and management of trees in park areas.

STRATEGIES

- Promote a diverse mix of tree species and ages in public tree plantings.
- Systematically and proactively manage trees on public property.
- Continue to plant and replant public trees through City tax funds, grants, and public/private partnerships.
- Monitor emergent insect infestations and diseases that threaten the vitality of public trees. Develop readiness plans.
- Promote public education regarding the planting and care of trees. Promote opportunities for volunteer involvement in planting and maintaining public trees.
- Monitor street tree pruning cycle. Consider amending development standards for residential subdivisions whereby street trees would be planting on private lots, rather than within the public right-of-way if the average street tree pruning cycle approaches a level that does not sustain public tree health and safety due to constrained resources.
- Consider development of development regulations that promote preservation of significant trees within new commercial and residential subdivisions.

URBAN FOREST

DESCRIPTION

The native landscape of the region surrounding Lincoln is tall grass prairie. The trees that shelter homes from the elements, purify the air, provide wildlife habitat, stabilize the soil, and define the character of neighborhoods and business areas have all essentially been planted and nurtured. It is recognized that trees, both occurring naturally and planted and managed, are essential to the quality of life of residents and the character of the community.

OTHER LOCATION AND DESIGN CRITERIA

Lincoln's urban forest shall be recognized as a valuable and essential component of our infrastructure for planning, management, economic and budgetary purposes. All management and design decisions concerning our public and private infrastructure shall take into consideration what impact they will have on our urban forest.

STRATEGIES

- ◆ The physical, financial, and human resources within our city government and community shall be fully optimized to effectively sustain and manage our public tree infrastructure.
- ◆ Our urban forest will be composed of a thriving and sustainable mix of tree species and ages that creates a contiguous healthy ecosystem.
- ◆ All trees on city property will be systematically and proactively maintained according to accepted professional standards and on an established schedule.
- ◆ Our public tree infrastructure will be valued and properly cared for by the city and its citizens as a vital environmental, economic and community asset.
- ◆ Commitment to replanting street trees that have been removed but not replaced due to budgetary constraints shall be a priority to reduce gaps in the streetscapes of residential areas throughout the city.
- ◆ Establish a complementary balance between our green and gray infrastructures to maximize city assets and minimize environmental degradation.
- ◆ Define and designate our urban forest as a valuable component of our public infrastructure for both planning and budget purposes.
- ◆ Establish a tree canopy goal or target for our urban forest using policies, procedures, priorities, and dedicated resources.