

**MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING
DPW CONFERENCE ROOM
Tuesday, February 14, 2012**

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Glenn Pfeffer, Mike Penckofer, & Rick Schwarz

Ex-Officio Present: Kevin Glaeser

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by G. Pfeffer.

R. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes from August 30, 2011. M. Penckofer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Glaeser explained how things were working with a reduced workforce, which includes an arborist who is being trained on chainsaw use and bucket truck procedures. The arborist will also be using the Stratapoint program. There are currently 200 trees on a list which are dead or dying and another 200 trees on the list which need some attention. K. Glaeser is also looking at getting the appropriate type of trees planted, such as not having Silver Maples planted in the right-of-way. Trees are not taken down unless needed. If a tree on the terrace area is removed, the wood is generally sold to people who are on a waiting list.

K. Glaeser would like to be proactive on pruning and keeping up on the diseases that the trees get. To help accomplish the goals, maintenance is now being done on the trees during the winter months, which had not been done before. When the seasonal employees are hired, the tree crew will be back to full strength.

K. Glaeser would personally like to plant a new tree every time a tree is taken down. Under the current rules, however, stump removal is the property owner's responsibility, so the stumps often remain.

G. Pfeffer questioned how a property owner could get a permit to have a good tree taken down. K. Glaeser said that he is trying to establish some guidelines. If people can prove that the tree causes problems with their sewers or sidewalks, a permit will be granted.

R. Schwarz said that when animated signs, etc. are placed on a building and there is no landscaping involved, the City planner puts a statement in there that a monetary amount must be paid to the Parks Department in lieu of landscaping. K. Glaeser was not aware of this and said the funds should be used for landscaping in the right-of-ways. He will check on this.

K. Glaeser said that the new arborist is not familiar with grants and simply doesn't have time for that. K. Glaeser thought that Val Mellon, the Director of Public Works, might be looking into getting one person to work on grants.

If needed, MPU has been coming to trim trees to get them 10 feet away from electrical wires, and then the City tree crew takes them down from there; however, it is very expensive. K. Glaeser plans to talk to different contractors to have them trim the trees when high voltage wires are present. It would not be as convenient as calling MPU. He may need to wait until there is a certain number of trees to cut before the contractor will come.

K. Glaeser said that he is considering getting his employees certified to trim around high voltage power lines. He said that when there is storm damage, the crews cannot afford to wait for other people to do the trimming. M. Penckofer had been certified to do that and said that it didn't really save the company money, but it saved them time. He mentioned that the International Society of Arboriculture offers courses online too.

The group discussed what had generally happened for the Arbor Day Celebration in past years and potential locations for this year's celebration. It was mentioned that the Izaak Walton Group generally donated two trees. K. Glaeser said that they could work with the group to decide on a location.

The election of officers was tabled until the next meeting. An additional meeting was added to this year's schedule for May 15th at 4:30 p.m. The commission will then meet on August 14th and November 13th.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

smsr