

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Thursday, February 1, 2024

3:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

Tree Advisory Board

Commission Members

Karen Fonte

Rita Renwick

Betsy Satcher

Mary Schoenheider

Ralph Schultz

Jim Testin

Ronald Van Dyke

ROLL CALL

Present Karen Fonte, Rita Renwick, Betsy Satcher, Ralph Schultz and Ronald Van Dyke

Absent Mary Schoenheider and Jim Testin

ALSO PRESENT

Floyd Catchpole - Illinois Native Plant Society, Janine Catchpole - Illinois Native Plant Society

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ronald Van Dyke, seconded by Ralph Schultz, to approve December 7, 2023 Tree Advisory Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Fonte, Renwick, Satcher, Schultz and Van Dyke

Absent: Schoenheider and Testin

Tree Advisory Minutes - December 7, 2023

[TMP-6953](#)

Attachments: [120723 Tree Advisory Minutes.pdf](#)

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

ARBORIST REPORT

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR

Nominate Chair - Rita Renwick, Karen Fonte moved, seconded by Ron Van Dyke, all in favor.
Nominate Vice-Chair - Ronald Van Dyke, Karen Fonte moved, seconded by Ralph Schultz, all in favor.

2. ARBOR DAY PLANS

Karen Fonte discussed the arbor event day plans for 2024. Carl Sandburg is the proposed host school. A donated tree is planted on the grounds on 4/26/24. The kids backfill the tree. There is also a poster contest.

3. INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT

Rita Renwick discussed the IRAG grant with the Board. This would include a total tree inventory, updated plan, and includes the 40% of the disadvantaged portions of the city. A motion was made by Karen Fonte, seconded by Ralph Schultz, to submit a letter on behalf of the Tree Advisory Board to be a partner in this grant process. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Fonte, Renwick, Satcher, Schultz and Van Dyke

Absent: Schoenheider and Testin

4. CN / AIB GRANT

Rita Renwick discussed this \$25,000 grant with the Board. This grant is in conjunction with American in Bloom.

5. TREE CITY USA APPLICATION & GROWTH AWARD

Rita Renwick discussed this application with the Board. The application has been completed.

6. ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Rita Renwick discussed the following recommendations with the Board:

1. The City Arborist be assigned a crew of at least four to supervise for the purpose of assisting with management of the city's trees.
2. The City Arborist be involved in RFPs for tree maintenance and removal contracts & contracts to fulfill requirements of our Urban Forest Management Plan.
3. The City requested proposals and award a tree growing contract for a minimum of 5 years with a 5 year extension prepared by the City Arborist as we complete the 10th year of our current contract.

A motion was made by Ralph Schultz, seconded by Ronald Van Dyke, to recommend for approval the Advisory Recommendations. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Fonte, Renwick, Satcher, Schultz and Van Dyke

Absent: Schoenheider and Testin

NEW OR OLD BUSINESS, NOT FOR FINAL ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION

Chicago Region Trees Initiatives Update: Jim Testin attended a meeting and Rita Renwick updated the Board. There is a conference in November.

NEXT MEETING APRIL 4, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT

Floyd Catchpole of the Illinois Native Plant Society discussed the Community Habitat Symposium to be held February 24, 2024 at Joliet Junior College - Building U at 8 am. Keynote speakers - Quinn Adamowski and Dom D'Allesandro. Register now <https://illinoisplants.org/kankakee-torrent-chapter/communityhabitatsymposiumregistration/>

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ralph Schultz, seconded by Ronald Van Dyke, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Fonte, Renwick, Satcher, Schultz and Van Dyke

Absent: Schoenheider and Testin