

Morgantown Tree Board (MTB)
Minutes, regular meeting of November 18, 2013

Present: MTB members Katherine Payne, Dan Brown, Dave Barnett, Secretary Jon Weems, and Chair Kara Hurst, and city employee Marchetta Maupin.

Chair Kara called the meeting to order at 4:28 PM in City Council chambers and noted that a quorum was present.

Katherine moved and Dan seconded that the vote for approval of the minutes of the September 23, 2013 meeting be held electronically. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Library Trees/Morgantown Arbor Day. There was general agreement that the Morgantown Arbor Day tree planting – two ginkgoes at the library – went well, as did the well-attended workshop that followed.
2. Tree maintenance and contracting needs/Grant. Kara will check with City Manager Jeff Mikorski about grant and budget status. Pruning needs have been identified.
3. Streetscape trees. Marchetta noted that the fourth block is shadier than others. The trees and even the flowers in baskets look different. The trees may need some work. Other discussion centered around the continuing problem of light chain wires in trees. Other means of illuminating trees are needed. Marchetta noted also that Pleasant St. trees need some work.
4. Tree of the Month (T-O-M). Newspaper publication of the November blackgum article and photo were anticipated for the next day. A draft of the December American holly article has been completed. The T-O-M process has been an adventure.

New Business

1. Proposed planting in a public space or park. At a meeting earlier on 11/18, Milan Roh indicated a willingness to contribute up to \$50K toward a planting of flowering cherries and/or other trees/shrubs near the rail-trail in the South University Avenue area. Mark Wise suggested some of the donation should go toward maintenance, and Mr. Roh concurred. Discussion at the Tree Board meeting emphasized the importance of integrating any new planting in a public space with the existing master plan or plantings in the area. Kara said she would inquire about any master plan for the area Mr. Roh has in mind.
2. December work date. After some discussion, it was decided to have an MTB work date at 4:00 on December 16. MTB members are urged to arrive promptly with tools to get as much work done as possible before dark. The site is on Ridgeway, not far from Mario's Fishbowl.
3. Web site. There have been problems, now mostly corrected, with the MTB web site. Some problems resulted from confusion between the Year of the Tree and the Tree of the Month. Others involved MTB's new practice of alternating regular meetings with work sessions. January, February, and March minutes are still missing from the web site and need to be resubmitted.

The next meeting was declared to be the work session set for 4:00 PM Monday, December 16 on Ridgeway.

The November 18 meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

_____ Jon Weems