

Morgantown Tree Board (MTB)  
Minutes, regular meeting of August 27, 2012

Present: MTB members Dave Barnett, Greg Dahle, Jack Cumming, Dan Brown, Secretary Jon Weems, and Chair Kara Hurst, and guest Jeff Mikorski.

Chair Kara called the meeting to order at 4:36 in City Council chambers and noted that a quorum was present.

New Business

1. Unauthorized pruning. As a courtesy to Jeff, who had another meeting to attend, Kara announced he would go first. Jeff reported an unknown person or persons had performed unauthorized pruning on many trees, including some in the Wharf Garage/Clay Street area. The pruning, some of it after Bartlett had pruned to a high standard, damaged the trees. Brush was apparently removed by the pruner(s). Pruning seems to have taken place at times when city workers were unlikely to be present. A police report has been filed, with police urged to check on any person other than a city employee pruning city trees.
2. Tree Tracker. Jeff indicated he would apply for Tree Tracker software in the coming year. The time period for in-kind matching was too brief for Damien to put in the needed hours in time for the current year. Tree Board members should begin keeping track of any volunteer time related to the tree inventory. There was discussion of a smart phone app that would allow users to take pictures or write comments about trees and have the information go directly to Damien. The app would automatically record the GPS coordinates.
3. Funding. There was discussion of the city's tight budget. It was decided that Kara should send a letter requesting the allocation of city funds for tree maintenance even though there might be no funds available. The need is real, and Council should be made aware of that. Jeff suggested that Marchetta might do some light pruning, without climbing, in the winter months.
4. Arbor Day. Morgantown's Arbor Day 2012, October 6, was discussed. There was considerable interest in planting at North Elementary, possibly involving students in some fashion. Dan obtained the name of the Principal. There was some discussion about whether or not the property would be an eligible site. It was mentioned that Marchetta still has several trees in need of planting. Some trees are not be in the best of shape, but one or two might be good enough for Arbor Day. Trees are believed to include six clump serviceberry, one hornbeam, one Kwanzan cherry, and one clump river birch. Kara suggested some might be suitable for planting in the Burroughs/Aspen area, where trees planted in 2010 have been heavily browsed by deer.
5. Roh trees. Jack reported a conversation with Milan Roh, who is interested in sponsoring another planting of cherry trees. This one would be in his memory, but he would like it planted while he's still around to enjoy it. The cost might be in the neighborhood of \$50K. Discussion followed of possible locations. Dan and others thought the area by the rail-trail between Exxon and Aldi's might be suitable.

### Old Business

1. Library trees. Kara noted that the library folks are interested in replacing their remaining Bradford pears. Two of the original four trees remain, but one is in poor condition. The consensus was that the job would be expensive, making major cost sharing by the library essential. Deep grinding of stumps, followed by soil replacement, would be necessary. A discussion of species followed. Koelreuteria was ruled out because it can be invasive. Columnar English oak, Ginkgo, and Sophora were mentioned as possibilities. Availability was predicted to be a possibly limiting factor. Kara asked about ball park cost, and Dave suggested \$5K for replacement of the two trees might be the right order of magnitude.
2. High Street trees. There was brief discussion of the bands on High Street trees being awfully tight.
3. MTRP. Katherine Payne (not present) had reported that some South Park residents have changed their minds about whether or not they want trees planted on the MRTP program.

### New Business

The next MTB meeting was scheduled for Council chambers at 4:30 Sept. 24. Meeting adjourned at 5:58. Attending MTB members then visited the library and Garlow House to brainstorm tree situations there.

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Jon Weems