

**Beautification Task Force
Minutes of the Meeting
January 28, 2009
Conference Room – Memorial Building**

The meeting of the Beautification Task Force was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Memorial Building and was called to order at 12:09 p.m.

Present: Brian McElwain, Dr. Joe Ryne, Nancy McKeague, Penny Bohnen, Candy Cleveland,
Absent: None

Also Present: Nancy Chapa, Director of Public Services George Franco, Village Forester John Finnell, Village Horticulturalist Dan Hopkins

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for November 19, 2008 meetings were approved.

Old Business

a.) It was agreed by all Task Force members that this meeting would be solely about Village trees. Mr. Finnell explained to the Task force that he was near completion on the Village of Hinsdale Community Forestry Program Manual of Policy and Procedure. This is a compilation of all the tree procedures from the last 40 years. Mr. Finnell has been working with Task Force members on this manual and is planning on presenting it to the EPS Committee on February 9, 2009. Members of the Task Force were wondering if this manual was designed strictly for public trees or did it include private tree policies as well. Mr. Finnell said the vast majority of the manual is about public trees, but there is information regarding private trees, mainly private elms.

b.) Mr. Finnell discussed the need for a Village tree survey. A tree survey is crucial to an effective tree program. A survey can tell you how many trees there are, species, last time they have been pruned, etc. Mr. Finnell explained that it is extremely difficult to plan for the possible EAB infestation, because he has no idea how many ash trees are in Hinsdale. Mr. Finnell would like to have the surveying contracted out, and estimates the cost between \$40,000 and 100,000. Mr. Finnell said he could to arrange for a tree survey specialist to attend the next BTF meeting. Task Force members realize there is no money in the budget for this, but discussed possible options for fund raising. Dr. Ryne suggested tree removal permits. If a resident wants to remove a public tree then they will have to purchase a permit. The money raise could be put towards a survey or other tree related programs.

c.) A discussion began regarding permits for private trees. Requiring residents to obtain permits before removing private trees could be an effective way to raise money to be put into the tree fund. Mr. Franco explained that if private tree ordinances were put in place there a very real possibility for future litigation. Mr. Franco suggested the BTF seek guidance from the EPS Committee in regards for private tree ordinances.

d.) Mr. McElwain suggested the BTF develop a memorandum to present to the EPS Committee regards to tree preservation. After some deliberation the BTF came up with three points they wish to present to the EPS Committee:

1. We strongly support the hard work that has gone into the Community Forestry Program Manual of Policies and Procedures for Public Trees.
2. We understand the importance of a public tree survey. It is a cornerstone of effective management of the community forest. Our current cost estimate is that it is \$2-3 per tree, times approximately 20K parkway trees. The task force will continue to explore options in creating and funding a municipal tree inventory.
3. In order to protect Hinsdale trees, the BTF is seeking guidance to explore a private tree protection and preservation ordinance, as many other Chicago suburban communities have already done. We feel that our village is not a leading community with regards to having a Tree Preservation Ordinance.

All Task Force members agreed to these points and asked staff to include them in a memorandum to be presented to the EPS Committee.

New Business

a.) Mr. McElwain suggested that some of the members of the Task Force take assignments in regards to Village tree preservation:

1. Mr. McElwain would research tree preservation ordinances in other communities.
2. Dr. Ryne would do research on a memorial tree program.
3. Ms. Cleveland would contact Edith Makra from the Morton Arboretum and discuss public and private tree ordinances.
4. Mr. Finnell will arrange to have a guest speaker talk about tree surveying.

Mr. McElwain asked the participating members to have their tree information ready for the next BTF meeting.

The members agreed to hold the next meeting on **Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 12:00** in the conference room

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Hopkins
Village Horticulturalist