

City of Ladue- Beautification, Open Space and Tree Advisory Committee

April 13, 2023

Ladue Police Department Conference room and via Zoom Meetings

Members present

Laure Hullverson, Pat Steiner, and Brook Palanca

Others present

Director of Public Works Anne Lamitola; City Arborist Sean Seed; Public Works Specialist Ashley Quinn, and Code Enforcement Officer Jerry Skubic.

Members of the Public present were Beverly Tucker-Knight, Heidi Reed and Kathleen Riordin all of whom have expressed interest in the Committee openings for members.

Adoption of agenda and minutes

Laure called for a motion to approve the April 13th agenda and the minutes from the February 9th meeting. Brook made a motion to approve as submitted, seconded by Pat. All vote aye.

Deer Creek Preserve Update

Anne reported that the City received one bid for the Deer Creep Preserve project. That bid was from Ideal Landscape Group. Staff were surprised we only received 1 bid since there were 8 people at the pre-bid meeting. Anne did receive feedback from some that came to the pre-bid meeting that they assumed there was too much competition, so they did not bid. However, Ideal Landscape Group has done work already on the property as part of the MSD project and restoration for Tall Timbers, so they are familiar with the Deer Creek Preserve property and the City. SWT the design consultant also has had a positive working relationship with them in the past.

The Base Bid is \$686,868 and Alternate 2: \$60,000 for a total contract award amount of \$746,868. Alternate 2 will allow for the trail to extend to the eastern property line and places the City in a better position for future will be proposed at City Council on April 17th if the Committee supports this option connections.

Pat made a motion to recommend approval of the bid by Ideal Landscape Group and the Alternate 2, to extend the trail to the eastern property line. Brook seconded the motion. All voted "aye".

Tree removal permits

St. Louis County Club - The City Code Enforcement Officer was in receipt of complaints about the tree removals that took place. Removals were down prior to obtaining a permit from the City. Included in the packet was a letter from Tim Gamma, Gamma Tree Experts, stating that the clean up of the area was due to large amount of honeysuckle, dead/diseased trees, and trees under the 6" requirement for permits. Jim Holbrook, Tim Burch and Andy Rouse were all present representing the Country Club. They reported that this was a large cleanup of area.

After a discussion of the situation and materials presented it was determined that the removals did not qualify a need for the tree removal permit, but it was requested that the Country Club be in contact with City staff when they were going to have trees removed so that staff was aware, should they receive

complaint calls. It was also requested that when trees are coming down if an arborists report stating the trees coming down and their condition is sent to the City Arborist.

1724 Warson Estates – Sean reported that the application was applying for the removal of 13 trees that were 6” caliper or larger. Eleven of the trees were removed prior to a permit being submitted and a stop work order was issued. There are still 2 trees that need to be removed. The application proposes 26 three-inch replacement trees to be planted. After a review of the documentation, Brook made a motion to approve the application as submitted, seconded by Pat. All members voted aye, and the application was approved.

10045 Litzsinger – Sean reported That the application was requesting to remove 2 trees, both larger than 6” caliper. One of these trees is also designated as a Landmark Tree because of its size. Per the documentation provided the trees show evidence of an old lightening strike, tree roots getting into sewer lateral, excessive shading of the house and landscape bed, and excessive root surface.

Kris LaFore was in attendance to present the application. He stated that one of the trees was significantly overhanging the house. The owner was concerned that if the tree fell it would cause considerable damage. After a discussion by the Committee, they asked if the applicant would consider replacing the Red Oak with a 3” caliper oak elsewhere on the property to make up for the removal of the large landmark tree. The applicant agreed they would be willing to do so.

Brook made a motion to approve the application with the condition that a 3” caliper oak species be planted. Pat seconded the motion. All members voted aye, and the application was approved.

Arbor Day Celebration Planning

Discussion ensued about Arbor Day on April 22, 2023. Pat volunteered to bring apples, Brook volunteered to bring granola bars. The City would have water set out. Beverly offered to bring a milkweed project for a children’s activity.

Other Matters Deemed Appropriate

The next meeting would tentatively be 5/11/2023 at 7:30 am if there were tree removal applications.

Brook made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Laure. All voted aye in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9am.



Laure Hullverson, Chairperson