

## Tree Commission Minutes

14 December 2015

**Members Present:** Liz Johnson, Barbara Stark, Jacob Shaw, Christine Penney, Jim Lemmerman, Mike Pennington, Janet Nelson. Also in attendance: Jim Filby Williams, Kelly Fleissner, Dale Sellner.

Christine opened the meeting with questions about the functionality of the Tree Commission. The TC has had little to no encouragement from the City but has nonetheless worked hard on various issues from a Skyline Viewshed policy, Sky Harbor tree issues, and UDC contributions and finds it very frustrating when the work is ignored. The TC has had difficulty recruiting members and retaining them. The question, therefore, is should the TC restructure or disband? We want to be helpful, useful and relevant to the City but it is a waste of volunteer energy and talent right now.

Jim FW acknowledged that the TC has not been a City priority. With two very important tree-related issues on the horizon he wants to engage the TC for the next 2-3 months with organizational support, connections to other City offices and empower/expand the scope of authority. The issues are EAB and Skyline Parkway viewshed management. He proposed that during January 2016 the public would be informed of the EAB issues and management plan. The TC February meeting would be used for a public hearing on the EAB management plan and in the March the TC would vote on whether to formally approve the EAB management plan. For Skyline, an advisory board will be formed with 2 Park Commissioners, 2 Tree Commissioners and 2 Skyline Preservation Alliance members to review the 2016-17 work plan. Mike volunteered to be one of the Tree Commissioners on the Skyline Advisory Board and Dale will send out an email outlining the details of this group for one other interested Tree Commissioner. Mike made a motion to take Jim FW's suggestion of increased support from the City for the next 3 months as we work on both the EAB and Skyline Viewshed issues and evaluate how things are in April. Janet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The TC agreed to try to identify some potential new candidates to suggest at the January meeting. We also agreed to invite new Mayor Emily Larson to attend one of our meetings in early 2016.

Jacob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Christine. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Stark.