

Mariemont Tree Advisory Board

Notes

Date | time 1/13/2021 3:00 PM | *Location* Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by	John Scherpenberg
Type of meeting	Monthly Tree Board Meeting
Chair	Barb Whittaker
Note taker	Jason Brownknight

Attendees – Barb Whittaker, John Scherpenberg, Rex Bevis, Marcy Lewis, Mary Beth York, Kristin Van Scoy, Jason Brownknight, Margaret Jevic, John Bentley, Courtney Scheeser, and Marianne Prue.
Guest - Wendi Van Buren, ODNR Urban Forester
Please bring - Copy of Minutes and Agenda

Agenda Items

Welcome & Members Introduction John Scherpenberg, Mariemont Superintendent

Minutes – review and approval Barb Whittaker, Chair

Old Business	Presenter	Time allotted
--------------	-----------	---------------

<input type="checkbox"/> Mariemont Tree Board Formation & Announcement	John Scherpenberg	15 Minutes
--	-------------------	------------

<input type="checkbox"/> Tree City USA & Expectations for 2021	John Scherpenberg	15 Minutes
--	-------------------	------------

<input type="checkbox"/> Update for Tree Planting Sections Survey	Group Discussion	5 Minutes
---	------------------	-----------

New Business	Presenter	Time allotted
--------------	-----------	---------------

<input type="checkbox"/> 2021 Arbor Day Celebration	Group Discussion	15 Minutes
---	------------------	------------

<input type="checkbox"/> Our Roles on this Tree Board	Group Discussion	10 Minutes
---	------------------	------------

Adjournment & Next Meeting Date /Time John Scherpenberg, Mariemont Superintendent

Mariemont Tree Board Meeting Notes:

The meeting began with brief introductions of meeting attendees.

Five voting board members have been determined and approved, they are; Barb Whittaker, Mary Beth York, Kristin Van Scoy, Jason Brownknight, & Martin Koepke.

John S. noted that Tree Board Bylaws need to be approved by the Village Council. The Bylaws have been received by board members, and are under review.

John S. noted the tree planting goal for Mariemont in 2021 is to plant a minimum of 25 trees. The typical budget cost to plant 25 trees is \$5,000 to \$6,000. Courtney S. brought up that this is our opportunity to decide how many trees should be planted (e.g., is 25 the correct amount?). Kristin V.S. raised the question ‘What is our need?’: need for the Village to have a strategic conversation. Barb W. noted a long-term plan is what we need and is our goal; however we are not there yet.

Mary Beth York gave an update on the general inventory that is currently underway.

Wendi Van Buren gave an introduction to the group and discussed the process, trainings opportunities, and tools available to us as an Urban Tree Board. Wendi's goal is to help us develop a viable, long-term plan for our community.

Rex Bevis gave a background on support provided by the Mariemont Preservation Foundation to establish a tree board and assist the community with tree planting. Mr. Bevis noted there are opportunities to work with the Foundation to raise funding for the tree board and/or for tree plantings.

John S. noted the Finance Committee meeting is coming and he needs to establish what amount to request in the 2021 budget for tree planting and maintenance. After a brief discussion it was determined to ask for \$65,000 to be used for tree planting and maintenance in 2021.

Wendi noted the need for board members to keep track of volunteer hours utilizing the volunteer work form. Barb will send out the form following the meeting. Wendi noted the going rate for volunteer time is \$21.00 per hour. Volunteer work includes invasive species removal, tree planting and/or maintenance, inventory work, and work related to tree board duties (e.g., meetings, projects, committees, etc.).

Barb asked John S. if we have met the Tree City US requirements for 2020. John replied yes the 2020 requirements have been met.

A brief discussion on the current survey was held. Barb asked if we need to create a survey database with all results. Mary Beth York offered to develop a complete list of the survey data. Mary Beth York requested that current survey volunteers please send her your survey forms and include any notes as an attachment. A discussion regarding the 2021 Arbor Day Celebration was held. John S. provided examples of past celebrations in the Village. Arbor Day is the first Saturday in April. After a discussion on potential ideas it was decided to focus on creating a video and demonstration on how to properly plant a tree. Courtney S. volunteered to lead this event and will work with a small team of tree board members to plan and implement the event. The event is an opportunity to promote the creation of the new Tree Board as well and proper planting practices.

During the discussion regarding Arbor Day several good ideas emerged for other potential opportunities. It was decided to form a group to explore the creation of a Memorial Tree program for the Village. Kristin Van Joy will lead this group. Champion trees was also discussed and may be included within the Memorial Tree program or be a separate program/project.

Wendi announced there will be a Tree Commission Academy at the Civic Garden Center during fall 2021. They will try an online course that will be in the evenings.

It was decided to move the last agenda item regarding Our Roles on the Tree Board to our next meeting so we can have more time for this agenda item.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

The next meeting date is February 10, 2021 at 3:00 PM. The meeting will once again be via Microsoft Teams.