

Tree Board

Minutes for
February 9, 2010

The regular meeting of the Germantown Tree Board was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at the Parks and Recreation office, 2276 West Street.

PRESENT

Wade Morgan
Kevin Young
Sidney Kuehn, Chairman
Pam Beasley

ABSENT

Paul Bruns
LeAnn Byrum
Dike Bacon

Guests:

Shawn Posey, Regional Urban Forester
Andy Pouncey, Assistant City Administrator

Roll call and establishment of quorum

The quorum was not established with only three members present.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was deferred to the March 9, 2010 meeting.

Landmark Community Bank Project

Sidney reported that the architect, McGehee Nicholson Burke, for the property at 2241 South Germantown Road had designed a driveway & parking area that would require removing several American Elms and Pecan trees. Some are over 100 feet tall and estimated to be more than 100 years old. Sidney invited two ISA arborists along with the State of Tennessee Regional Arborist, Shawn Posey, to examine the trees. They all agreed that none of the trees were unhealthy or diseased and could be saved.

The driveway and parking lot had already been approved by the Design Review Commission, but the Tree Board decided to ask the bank to reconsider the driveway design in order to save the trees. Sidney reminded the board that a program was being developed where companies, developers, and others who assist in saving healthy trees within the City of Germantown would be recognized in some way. Sidney suggested that this bank could be the first recipient of the program award.

The Tree Board received a response from the architect stating, “Our office as well as the Landscape Architect’s office, is very confident that the plan as presented and approved by the City meets all of the requirements...”, and concluded that, “At this time, we believe this plan is the best for the site and will be proceeding with it as approved.” Sidney tried to contact the bank president by phone, but did not receive a reply.

Sidney voiced his intent to save the trees if at all possible and presented alternative designs to the Board that would save all six trees and still provide the business with sufficient parking and a driveway. He stated that he would contact the Mayor and Board of Alderman about the situation.

Planning for the Arbor Day Event – Friday, March 5, 2010

- Poster Contest
 - March 2nd – deadline for all poster entries to be submitted to Parks and Recreation office – Home school/private school entries also accepted.
 - March 3rd – Germantown posters selected by the Germantown Beautification Commission
 - Tree Give-Away (9 a.m. to noon)
 - Location: Germantown Crossing Shopping Center (Corner of Germantown Road and Farmington Ave.
 - A Redbud tree will be planted at Germantown Elementary School, the Memphis Oral School for the Deaf, and The Villages at Germantown.
 - Trees will be bundled as follows:
 - Table One: Flowering Trees – each guest will have a choice of 1 bundle or a container of a Redbud.
 - Table Two: Native Hard Woods – each guest will have a choice of 1 bundle.
 - City employees that are interested in receiving saplings will be given the opportunity prior to the event on Friday. They will receive 4 saplings:
 - 1 Red Dogwood – small understory tree likes shade
 - 1 Redbud – small understory tree likes shade
 - 1 Yellow Poplar – large hardwood shade tree
 - 1 Willow Oak – large hardwood shade tree
- *planting instructions for all trees will be provided.

Tree Ordinance Report

Wade Morgan made a brief report on the progress on the updated tree preservation ordinance. He reported that the Tree Ordinance subcommittee met

on February 2, 2010 to review and discuss the latest proposed revisions. The proposed amendments would increase the membership on the Tree Board and would allow the Board to review plans that affect trees within City-owned property.

Beautification Commission School Grant

Pam reported that the Beautification Commission will award grants to schools as part of its new ***Learning Environments*** public school grants program. With this new fiscal year, \$5,000 has been set aside in total for use in enhancing their environments while also educating students on landscape design and implementation principles.

The applications were due by January 30, 2010 with grants being awarded on March 5, 2010 (Arbor Day) Pam invited the Tree Board to participate in the judging process.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.