

Pendleton Urban Forestry Committee

MEETING DATE: June 17, 2021
LOCATION: Pendleton Town Hall
100 W. State Street Pendleton, Indiana
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Carol Hanna at 6:00 pm.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Board members in attendance were Jeanette Isbell, Kerry Dodd, Adrienne Dzelme, Carol Hanna, Jeanette Isbell and Julia Avey. A quorum was established.

Individuals representing the Town were Planning Director Kayla Hassett and Attorney Shanna Kelly, appearing on behalf of Town Attorney Jeff Graham and Clerk Denise McKee.

Others in attendance included Scott Slade from Times Post, Aren Flint from Davey Resource Group, Carrie Tauscher from Indiana DNR Forestry Division and Tami Coleman from Indiana DNR Forestry Division.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- Motion to approve March 18, 2021 meeting minutes made by Kerry Dodd; seconded by Jeanette Isbell; roll call taken and all members present voted in favor of motion; motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2020 Tree City USA Growth Award Announcement

Denise McKee reported the following:

- As mentioned by Rachel Christenson at the March meeting, the town was awarded the 2020 Tree City USA on March 17, 2021. Details on Town of Pendleton's figures for each criteria provided in presentation and Google Drive.
- Earned **Growth Award** on March 25, 2021. Press release to be shared on Town's social media and website.
- Growth Award based primarily in part by:
 - TreeKeeper Software/Inventory Program as provided by Davey Resource Group, Inc.

- Tree Inventory Update Results & Tree Inventory Update Report also provided by Davey Resource Group, Inc.
- Tree Planting Project – Pendleton Tree Recovery Program – Fall 2020
 - Pendleton Bicentennial Project Event
 - Joint project with Arbor Day Foundation, Indiana DNR, International Paper, South Madison Community Foundation, Falls Park & Town of Pendleton

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2021 Tree City USA Goals

Denise McKee provided the following information:

- 2021 Tree City USA Application
 - Four Standards of Tree City USA Recognition:
 - Active Tree Board
 - Tree Care Ordinance
 - Community Forestry Program with Annual Budget of at least #2 per capita
 - Host of Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation
 - Application for 2021 due in December 2021.
- 2021 Tree City USA – Growth Award
 - Award Recognizes major milestones and annual activities in the following categories:
 - Building the Team
 - Measuring Trees and Forests
 - Planning the Work
 - Performing the Work
 - The Community Framework
 - Awarded based on projects that have gone above and beyond that involve community engagement with urban forestry.
- Next Steps for PUFC consideration
 - a.) Arbor Day Observance & Proclamation Event
 - Option to host in Fall 2021
 - Can plant a minimum of 1 tree in observance

- Potential tree planting sites – Thomas Pendleton House, Log Cabin at Falls Park North 40 Entrance, public school

b.) Community Engagement Programs/Committees

- **Community Educational Activities** as previously mentioned by PUFCA board members- Tree Identification Walk, How to Plant/Care for Tree Workshop, Memorial Tree Program Assistance to Falls Park.
 - **Arbor Day Annual Observance Committee** – Formation of committee/chairperson to plan annual event.
 - **Memorial Tree Committee** – Formation of committee/ chairperson to explore options and partner with Falls Park with their Memorial Tree Program, including Tree Register Update & Digital Map/Tag System.
- Recommendations include:
 - Host Arbor Day Observance/Proclamation in Fall 2021 with planting of one tree - potentially day of Bicentennial Celebration.
 - Plan one community activity for Fall 2021 (2021 Growth Award eligibility)
 - Form committees in the fall to start 2022.

B. IDNR-CUF Grant

i. Tree Planting Project/Grant Update

Denise McKee provided the following information, information and grant documentation provided in presentation and Google Drive:

- Grant funding sources of original application of \$40,000 with 50/50 match:
 - \$20,000 grant award – Indiana DNR, Urban Forestry Division
 - \$10,000 grant match – South Madison Community Foundation
 - \$10,000 grant match – Town of Pendleton and Falls Park
- = Ending budget, including In-Kind service, total project
\$49,443.00
- Grant Scope, two main components include:
 - Tree Inventory –
 - Contractor Cost to Inventory Trees (DRG)
 - TreeKeeper Software Subscription [3 yrs] (DRG)
 - TreeKeeper Web Training (DRG)

- Tree Planting Project –
 - Purchase/Delivery of 60 trees (Woody Warehouse & Dogwood Tree Hill Farms)
 - Equipment Rental; Equipment Use
 - Labor (Field Work & Administrative)

- Huge Thanks from the Planning Department:

*Indiana DNR (Carrie Tauscher, Tami Coleman, Abigail Krause) * Davey Resource Group (Aren Flint) *Town Street Department (Rick Bowlin, Joe Schroeder, T.J. Fout)
 * Solutions4ebiz and Times Post *Certified Arborist (Tanya Dodson) * South Madison Community Foundation (Tammy Bowman, Sue Patton) *Falls Park (Aaron Burris, Donnie Meyer, Tom Crickmore) * South Madison Community Schools *CUF Grant Applicant (Rachel Christenson) * Town Manager & Planning Department * ROW Property Owners *Woody Warehouse * Dogwood Tree Hill Farms

- Grant Highlights:

- TreeKeeper Software ready for use [Planning Dept & Public Versions]
- Tree Inventory Updated (Species/Site/Condition/Benefit) + 60 new trees
- Tree Inventory Update Results & Report
- 60 new trees planted over course of 8-9 days
- Trees range from small-medium-large to help replenish lost trees & add to tree canopy.
- Selection of tree species chosen to help diversify tree inventory with 18 different species showing low on inventory.
- Over 90% native trees selected with majority large canopy trees.
- Trees planted at Heritage Way, Falls Park, Fall Creek Golf Course, Grovelawn Cemetery, PHMS, PHHS and Public right-of-way (Residential/Commercial)
- Over 350 Hours of In-kind service
- Trees scheduled for inspection by DNR 6/17/21.
- Updated Tree Benefits:
- 2,766 calculated trees = Total Yearly Eco Benefit of \$340,320.50
- Greenhouse Gas - \$8,878.71; Water - \$103,035.43; Energy - \$100,246.22; Air Quality- \$2,516.72; Property Value - \$115,643.42 [*see Google Drive for full details]

- Carrie Tauscher, Representative from Indiana DNR Forestry Division, shared with PUFC members about her experience with the CUF Grant and tree planting inspection with the Street Department earlier that day. Tauscher commented that the crew members were all very kind and very receptive of the constructive criticisms given. Tauscher also mentioned that they discussed the corrections that needed to be made and all will be corrected within the next week. Tauscher added that she enjoyed her time with the Street Department staff and very pleased with how they got the trees planted in such a time crunch. Tauscher also stressed that the TreeKeeper Software and inventory reporting by Davey Resource Group that guided this project was key in getting the grant approved.
- Denise McKee gave special thanks to Carrie Tauscher, Tami Coleman and Aren Flint for all of their hard work and help in making this grant project successful and for treating this project as if it were their own hometown.
 - Next Steps:
 - Wrap up CUF Grant by 6/30/21
 - TreeKeeper Update re: dead tree removal- Plant Growth Management
 - Update - 2016 Tree Management Plan & Street/Public Approved Trees by increasing native tree options.

ii. Tree Inventory Results/TreeKeeper Presentation

Report and presentation provided in Google Drive

Aren Flint from Davey Resource Group presented the following information:

- Initial inventory conducted in 2016. After the 2019 tornado, a follow-up inventory was conducted which was partially funded by DNR.
- Davey Resource Group took all previous sites in 2016 and picked up the new trees planted in the Fall 2020, adding additional park sections including Right-of-Way, Grovelawn Cemetery, Golf Course, Falls Park, soccer fields, sports complex and Brown Pool.
- 2016 inventory reflected 3014 trees and 40 stumps while in 2020 reflected 2700 trees and 442 stumps.
- TreeKeeper updated to show sites of lost trees, but where still viable.
- Recommend 116 viable planting sites from small, medium and large trees.
- Have both public and staff version of the TreeKeeper Software.

- TreeKeeper include the following features:
 - Allows the notation of tree condition and whether further inspection is necessary or if need monitored.
 - Hardscape information, land use and utility information.
 - Documents primary maintenance plans such as routine pruning and/or priority pruning.
 - Tree species and diameter size.
 - Tree diversity calculation with goal to not exceed 10% of the same species.
- Urban Forestry is more resistant to pests with a higher diversity of tree species.
- Need to be very selective with maples as high on inventory list.
- Discussed Tree Condition ratings and Diameter Class Distribution.
- Tree benefits include – pollution removal, net carbon removal, avoided run-off, energy conservation and property value. Current total benefit \$340,290 annually or \$125.75 per tree annually. Benefit report will update as trees are added and removed.
- Next Steps include:
 - Diversify distributions of genus and species when planting.
 - Prioritize managing established and mature tree population.
 - Prune young trees now to improve structure encouraging better form as they age.
 - Use TreeKeeper to keep the inventory up-to-date as work is performed.
 - Consider performing an annual ANSI Level I inventory to identify new maintenance priorities that popped up since the inventory.
 - Perform a complete re-inventory in 5 years or update 1/5 of the population every year.
- The following discussions took place:
 - Carol Hanna expressed concern in regards to sidewalks when trees push up the sidewalk, asking for maintenance options. Aren Flint suggested rerouting the sidewalk or to move towards non-cement sidewalk options. Carrie Tauscher

encouraged reaching out to Aren Flint as the Town's Certified Arborist for guidance on these matters. Tauscher added that it is more costly to remove a tree than cost to modify the sidewalk.

- Jeanette Isbell asked if it is better to plant deeper rooted tree for street trees. Carrie Tauscher replied that there is some truth to that, but that trees rest where they are comfortable and root out when it can find sufficient oxygen, using space available (which can be limiting at times with utilities and bad soil). Kayla Hassett confirmed that the new Unified Development Ordinance will address some the tree planting requirements in new developments.
- Jeanette Isbell asked if it is safe to plant ash trees now. Aren Flint replied that studies are showing that some have become resistant, but that it not quite the time to resume planting ash trees. Carrie Tauscher added that Indiana DNR is currently conducting studies on this and will keep the Town of Pendleton informed.
- Aren Flint provided the following public education recommendations:
 - Make filters available to the public such as the Memorial Tree feature.
 - Promote desired tree species - conduct outreach and notify public.
 - Encourage individuals to send in pictures of their trees. These images can be imported into TreeKeeper.
 - Conduct a tree photo contest.
- Kayla Hassett advised that a Tree Registration Form has been created and plan to promote soon. Registration will help steer individuals towards planting the desired trees.
- Carol Hanna asked PUFC members to look up the TreeKeeper Software on the town's website before the next meeting. Aren Flint added that the software offers navigation videos as well.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Carol Hanna at 7:39 p.m.

Next meeting July 15, 2021 at 6 pm.