

Pendleton Urban Forestry Committee

MEETING DATE: October 27, 2020
LOCATION: Pendleton Town Hall
100 W. State Street Pendleton, Indiana
TIME: 4:30 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Taylor Metz at 4:38 pm.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Board members in attendance were Taylor Metz, Jeanette Isbell, Kerry Dodd and Adrienne Dzelme. A quorum was established. Individuals representing the Town were Planning Director Rachel Christenson and Attorney Shanna Kelly, appearing on behalf of Town Attorney Jeff Graham.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from the June 23, 2020 meeting as written was made by Taylor Metz and seconded by Jeanette Isbell. Roll call vote was taken with all members present giving approval. The motion was carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2020 Pendleton Arbor Day/ADF Tree Event Recap – Staff Update
(Presentation provided in Google Drive)

Planning Director Rachel Christenson reported the following:

- In efforts to replenish some of the trees lost in the 2019 tornado, 200 trees were planted at residential properties in the Town of Pendleton, 100 trees planted in Falls Park as well as an additional 13 memorial trees at Falls Park.

- Excellent event on a beautiful day, orchestrated very well, with receiving a perfect amount of rain on Thursday & Friday prior to the event. Sue Patton from South Madison Community Foundation was very instrumental in the event being a big success. Further, Carrie Tauscher from DNR was rock-star, along with the help of Friends of Falls Park and approximately 150 volunteers.
- Pictures of the event provided for viewing, including the banner provided by Arbor Day Foundation.
- Banning Engineering came out to help in the 2019 tornado and was also able to return for the event to help plant trees at the Sports Complex and Community Building in Falls Park.
- At the Sports Complex, Davey Resource Group taught baseball team how to plant trees.
- SMCF wrote thank you notes to every homeowner and volunteer planting teams. Letters were placed inside gift bags provided by the Madison County Visitor Bureau.
- Post Event Activities:
 - BH x Creative (Videographers Tyler Bradfield & Jake Hudson) putting a video of the event together. Currently wrapping up interviews and capturing stories of the day, including couple scheduled to have tree planted in their yard that gave birth to their child the same day. Anticipate to have finished video by November 1st. Video to be sent out to Arbor Day Foundation as well as International Paper.
 - DNR is checking on the park trees this week to ensure proper planting techniques were used and will help with any unresolved planting issues.
 - Project Debrief Meeting scheduled for Friday, October 30th at 1 pm.
 - Any homeowners having tree issues can call Rachel at the Planning Department.
 - Few extra trees left and waiting until after Debrief Meeting to determine if all requested trees have been provided before passing out the extra trees.

The following discussions/comments were made:

- Jeanette Isbell shared that Falls Park may be planning another planting day in Spring 2021, yet on smaller scale. Appreciates all learned on this project and was very impressed with the planting teams when serving at the loading station during the event. Rachel Christenson added that it was good to see the project come through after all of the hard work.
- Taylor Metz commented that it was great to see all of the trees and buckets throughout the Town as great visual.
- Kerry Dodd stated that the event had a great turnout with 150 volunteers. Rachel Christenson added that the volunteers were not all from Pendleton as advertised the event to Tree Steward Programs bringing in individuals from Greenfield, Lafayette and all over the State of Indiana.
- Rachel Christenson stated that she will get more information about the Spring 2021 plans for tree plantings at Falls Park and share details learned with PUFC.
- Jeanette Isbell commented that the letter that was sent out in regards to the Memorial Trees was well-written and appreciated the flexibility it gave in regards to payment due date as well as invite to give additional funds to go towards future tree replacement needs.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. November Tree Planting Project (IDNR Grant)

Rachel Christenson provided the following information in regards to the Community Urban Forestry Grant:

- Tree inventory, software & training costs total \$18,904.88.
- Remaining funds for tree planting for the park/town streets/cemetery total \$21,095.12.
- Plan to plant 25 trees in November using tree planting funds. Street and Electric Department employees will likely plant the trees. Remaining funds will then be used to plant additional trees in Spring 2021. Planning Department has received many calls seeking trees in the right-of-way and will work from this list, using larger caliper trees.
- Having new Building Inspector will help free up time for new projects, but cannot take on any major projects until other projects in the works are completed.

B. TreeKeeper Staff Training Recap

Rachel Christenson shared the following information:

- Aren Flint from Davey Resource Group ran training in which Aaron Burris and Donnie Meyer from Falls Park were also able to attend.
- Excited about public side of the inventory software as can share information with the public about each tree location and type.
- Software features:
 - Staff can remove/add trees to the inventory as needed.
 - Program has many functions, including work orders, that may not be used as work order system already in place with the Utility Department.
 - Fields exist in software that allow notation by resident as well as for Staff to maintain status of the tree. Software will also track phone calls received in regards to the specific tree.
- Software benefits:
 - Help Planning Staff to be proactive and not negligent.
 - Ability to keep track of complaints and actions taken to resolve.
 - Tracks tree sites versus trees planted as when trees are removed, software retains data and can also notate if tree will be replaced with new tree or to not replant in that location.
- Software inventory provided on computer screen for viewing by PUFCC members, pointing out the following markings:
 - blue representing trees planting on 10/24/20
 - green representing trees already inventoried
 - red representing tree stumps
 - X representing trees removed & not to be replaced in location
- Additional software features/information:
 - To date, 2,011 trees counted in inventory.
 - Software provides yearly benefit estimates including air quality, water and stormwater for each tree as well as can determine

total benefit/system worth for sections such Grove Lawn Cemetery, Fall Creek Golf Course and Falls Park.

- Need to keep up with the tree inventory. Last inventory taken in 2015 can now be compared to current inventory to help determine loss of trees from the 2019 tornado. Slight discrepancy needs to be worked out as estimated approximately 250 trees lost in Town and 250 trees lost in Falls Park, however, software not quite reflecting this amount.

The following discussions took place:

- Taylor Metz asked when the public version of the software will be available. Rachel Christenson replied this public feature should be available very soon. Christenson invited Taylor Metz to provide write-up about this feature and she can then share this on town email, website as well as send out to all of the volunteers that participated in the ADF Tree Event.
- Rachel Christenson commented that she will share more information about the November tree plantings as soon as comes available. Christenson also stated that the Tree City USA Application is due December 31, 2020 and does not expect to have any issue on meeting this deadline. Christenson added that she expects for the PUFC to be awarded one of these Tree City USA Growth Awards.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Taylor Metz at 5:10 p.m.

Next meeting November 24, 2020 at 4:30 pm