

**City of Kalamazoo
SPECIAL TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes
February 23, 2022**

Water Reclamation/Wastewater Treatment Facility
1415 N. Harrison, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Conference Room: WREC A

Members

Present: Erik Injerd, Forester, Consumers Energy
Anthony Ladd, Public Works Division Manager, COK
Patrick McVerry, Deputy Director - Parks & Recreation, COK
Steve Skalski, Water Superintendent & Asst. City Engineer, COK

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Ladd called the Special Tree Committee Meeting of February 23, 2022, to order at 12:10 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Committee Chair Ladd completed roll call and determined the aforementioned members were present.

C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Committee Chair Ladd noted there were no guests present at today's meeting.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (February 23, 2022)

Committee Chair Ladd added a new agenda item to the agenda. He added moving the Tree Committee Monthly Meetings from the Stockbridge Facility, 415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo to the Water Reclamation/Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1415 N. Harrison, Kalamazoo for the remainder of the year.

Committee Member Skalski supported by Committee Member McVerry, moved approval of the February 23, 2022, Tree Committee Agenda, as amended. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 4, 2022)

Committee Member McVerry supported by Committee Member Skalski, moved approval of the January 4, 2022, Committee Minutes. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Moving Tree Committee Meetings to Water Reclamation/Wastewater Treatment Facility

Committee Chair Ladd asked for a motion to allow the Monthly Tree Committee Meetings to be moved from the Stockbridge Facility, 415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo to the Water Reclamation/Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1415 N. Harrison, Kalamazoo for the remainder of the year.

Committee Member Skalski supported by Committee Member McVerry, made a motion to allow the Monthly Tree Committee Meetings to be moved from the Stockbridge Facility, 415 Stockbridge, Kalamazoo to the Water Reclamation/Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1415 N. Harrison, Kalamazoo for the remainder of the year. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Stadium Drive Culvert Project

This tree removal request was presented by Committee Chair Ladd. He stated the Stadium Drive Culvert Project has begun. This project came up as they were putting plans together for the bigger Stadium Drive Project that will start at the end of April. Once the contractor mobilized to replace the culvert, it was discovered there were trees in the right-of-way that did not show up on the survey and are in the way of the construction zone.

Committee Chair Ladd stated as they worked with the contractor and surveying company, they determined there is a total of 9 trees, between 6" – 18" caliber, that need to be removed. The species are oak, elm, locust, walnut, and cherry trees.

Committee Chair Ladd noted Acadia Creek snakes back and force along Stadium Drive. The culvert is located just west of Western Michigan University's power plant. He showed pictures of the trees that have been marked for removal. He stated they have worked to reduce the number of trees that need to be removed and decided these nine trees must be removed due to their location being in the channel leading up to the culvert.

Committee Chair Ladd stated as part of the larger Stadium Drive Project, they plan to plant 105 trees in the medium of Stadium Drive. The species are 21 Princeton Sentry Ginkos, 12 Street Spire Oaks, 30 Shawnee Brave Bold Cypress, 12 American Sentry Linden, 30 Lucianna Columnar Zelkova. He noted this project has been approved by City Commission and will start at the end of April.

Committee Member Skalski asked where the trees will be planted. Committee Chair Ladd responded they plan to plant the trees in groups of 3 to 4 trees about 40' apart, in the medium of Stadium Drive, from Howard to Lovell.

Committee Member Skalski supported by Committee Member McVerry, made a motion to approve the removal of 9 trees with the replanting of the 105 trees as part of the larger Stadium Drive Project. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

None.

H. ACTION ITEMS

None.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

J. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Skalski supported by Committee Member McVerry, made a motion to adjourn the Tree Committee meeting. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Rutherford Date: 3-10-2022
Recording Secretary

Approved by: [Signature] Date: 3/11/22
Staff Liaison

