

MINUTES
April 4, 2018
BATAVIA TREE COMMISSION

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. They are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Commission and to include some description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. They may not reference some of the individual attendee's comments, nor the complete comments if referenced.

1. Meeting Called To Order

Chairman Scott Haines called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the City of Batavia Public Works Facility, located at 200 North Raddant Road in Batavia, Illinois.

Members Present: Commissioners Scott Haines, Gary Holm, Bob Lootens, Bob Burtch, Anna Bakker, and City Arborist Frank Saupp

Members Absent: Commissioners Kevin Summers and Kathy Vranek

Others Present: John Higgins (5:35 p.m.) and Kathy Montanari, Recording Secretary

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes from September 17, 2017

Maker: Saupp

Second: Burtch

Voice Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent

Minutes placed on file and to be sent to City Council for acceptance

3. Arbor Day

The tree planting will be done at Engstrom Park on April 27. Six to eight trees will be planted along Millview on the berms. They will range in size from 6'-8' high and are in 15-gallon pots.

The tree packing session is scheduled for the morning of Thursday, April 26, and any volunteers are welcome.

4. Current Projects and Developments – Update

Haines reported that the project formerly known as Larson Commons is now called Prairie Commons. Holm said it's the former Faganel property on the east side of Kirk Road that had formerly proposed for single-family, multi-family, and commercial development. It is now all high-density multi-family. Haines shared that the trees on the property were mostly low-quality basswood in front. Efforts are being made to protect the oak trees that are just offsite behind the property by the path. The group discussed some of the trees that had been previously identified on the property. Haines will email an old tree survey to everyone.

The first set of engineering plans has been submitted for the Landmeier property. Haines said there weren't any quality trees, mostly ashes in the farmhouse area. Saupp recalled that there may be a less common tree species on the property and he will check.

On Hawks Way near Walmart there is to be senior living on the south side of the street and a memory care facility is under review for the north side. While there has not been much development occurring in recent years, things may be picking up. Development in Tanglewood continues with about six homes being built each year.

Haines briefly reviewed two storm sewer projects. One will go through the West Batavia Cemetery to Morton to Jefferson. The other will be in the 14th Colony at Kirk/Giese.

5. Other

Haines distributed a draft revision to the City Code. The current Code references only tree planting in the parkway. There have been issues with plantings in the parkway that are too high. The revision is being proposed to address these plantings, along with obstructions in the parkway that cause issues for pedestrian / vehicle visibility. Commissioners discussed how this might be handled similarly to tree planting permits.

The group briefly talked about the idea of a tree preservation ordinance whereby parkway trees that are lost through construction would have to be replaced elsewhere on the property. It was thought that this would be very difficult to enforce.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Holm and seconded by Lootens to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by
Kathy Montanari