

**Berkley Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 11, 2018
7:00 p.m. – Berkley Public Library**

Present: M. Grassa, R. Penkala, S. Sekora, D. Hennen, T. Losey, M. Schneider, L. Fritsch, K. Karlis, B. Lathrop

Absent: K. Wilt, D. Schueller

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Grant Information - T. Losey reported that she had looked into several potential grants and it would be best for us to decide what we want to fund first, what would the grant be for? She looked up DNR, DTE, Arbor Day and other grants. T. Losey shared what grants were awarded around the state and how much they were for. We could do one for tree planting. She also found out information from the DNR about how to take care of trees. We would be able to place some of this information on our FB page to help Berkley residents care for trees properly. M. Schneider found a link from Palo Alto, CA. canopy.org and it could be very helpful to include some of this in our tree planting information. K. Karlis also found at this same site an Arbor Day event that would, include going around the city and seeing urban trees. Sort of like a scavenger hunt and it could be very educational. Many of these grants are matching one for one. D. Hennen has not been able to determine where the tree fund is yet and how much is in this fund so far? He will keep checking at his next meeting with the City Finance Manager, it is an ongoing agenda item when they meet. We would have to make sure that any grant we have to match is written into the annual budget to make sure we have the matching funds each year. Having a one to one match will make it a more sellable option. We do tree planting every year so we should be able to qualify for an annual grant to match planting. T. Losey will check into the DTE grant and work to submit this grant for \$3000 in Spring 2019.

Tree Survey Information - M. Schneider asked how we would determine the cost of a tree survey and then how would we make sure that was written into the appropriate budget for the year. K. Karlis will be retiring and in May 2019 she feels like she could take time to review the past survey date and possibly convert it into an excel spreadsheet. K. Karlis will make an appointment with the City IT Dept. and try to automate that survey. D. Hennen said that he can get an address list in an excel spreadsheet for her to get started. GIS can also be used to enter trees. K. Karlis will email D. Schueller and Stan to see if they can advise on who would help from the City. B. Lathrop said that there is a plug-in that will allow us to use the GIS system to inventory all trees in Berkley. D. Hennen will check with the City to see if a Tree Board member can help with data entry. The City Technology Committee will be visiting all of the committees to see what our needs are and how they can support our activities. There may be a grant for students to help inventory trees in a city.

Arbor Day Spring 2019 - April 26, 2019 - M. Grassa talked to M. Church and they would be glad to do Tales and Trails with us on Thursday, April 25, 2019. M. Grassa will see if we can also do a tree planting at that time as well. There would be entertainment, activities and other things going on so this would be a good time for us to tap into. We can have the Library display case the entire month of April to promote trees. We will think about this and M. Schneider will get back to us by the next meeting. She will see if perhaps we can tap into some elementary school classes to help us with this project. M. Grassa has a good number of ideas that we have used in past years. The Library Staff tends to be very helpful for this project. More to talk about at our March Meeting.

City Master Plan and Budget – D. Hennen will ask the city about getting one of the tree board members involved. The planning commission is the group that works on the master plan. Nothing else to report on this year. The budget will be a part of this process as well. If we have budget needs, then we have to get these to D. Hennen soon as the budget for 2020 starts in June 2019. This would be the inventory, one for one replacement and if there are grant matching needs then we have to get the cost to D. Hennen. He needs to know what the city will get out of tree planting; this would help make the case for allocating the funds for the initiatives. Why it is important is necessary? B. Lathrup said that he would like to see the Tree Board work on this project and also involve the citizens of Berkley. R. Penkala reminded the group that tree planting must be part of the future City Master Plan plus budget expenditures insuring that planting goals are achieved over time.

Other Business – M. Grassa did not hear from D. Schueller yet if we received Tree City USA 2018, we will know at our March meeting. The Arbor Day Growth Award is more difficult to achieve as it must be something different as there is a point system. Oak Park has the longest Growth Award in the area according to B. Lathrup. This award also includes city activities that qualify for entry of this award application.

Next meeting will be on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7 pm at the Berkley City Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

2019 Meeting Schedule:

April 8, 2019

May 13, 2019

June 10, 2019

July 8, 2018

August 12, 2019

September 9, 2019

October 14, 2019

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 Due to Veteran's Day on Monday November 11, 2019

December 2019 – No Meeting – Holiday Parade