

The Parkersburg Tree Commission met for their regular meeting on May 12, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the City Park Conference Room with Turner Sharp, president presiding.

**Members Present:**

Betty Camp  
Pamela Lutz  
Willis Ridenour  
Turner Sharp  
Sauny Williams

**Members Absent:**

Jerry Edman  
Mike Reynolds

**Others:**

Steve Cox  
Andy Sheetz

**MINUTES:** Sauny Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting as distributed. Pamela Lutz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**BUDGET:** Donna presented the budget and reviewed. Balance is \$10,394.15.

**TREE MEMORIALS:** Donna stated that she has sent several packets to interested persons.

Willis Ridenour stated that the Rathbone memorial tree (dogwood) is dead. It is situated when you first come into the park on the right hand side. The Committee discussed replacing dead memorial trees and dogwood trees.

Donna stated that Mr. Jim Myers is concerned about the Dogwood tree that he had planted. He believes the tree is dead. Steve Cox and Donna both stated that the tree still appears to be alive but there are no leaves on the tree.

**MOTION:** Sauny Williams made a motion that the Rathbone memorial tree be replaced. Willis Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Willis will contact the family to see what type of tree they would like for replacement and report back at next meeting.

**MOTION:** Sauny Williams made a motion to remove the dogwood tree from the memorial tree list since we are having problems with this tree. Betty Camp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**ARBORIST REPORT:** Steve Cox stated he was reporting for Bob Russell.

1. Presented a picture of a dogwood tree that was planted by Boy Scout Troop #6 on May 7, 2009 at City Park. Stated there were approximately 50 people present. Bob Russell assisted with the planting.

2. The tree on Laird Avenue was removed and another tree will be removed soon from Laird.

Donna stated that she had submitted to Jerry information and pictures on trees that need to be removed at 1800 Market Street—3 Maples on 18<sup>th</sup> Street—under wiring. Also tree at 919 Juliana Street. Steve advised they will check up on this matter.

**OLD BUSINESS:      WVU student & Forestry Division:**

Donna stated that she still hasn't heard from the student at WVU. She will call Bob Hannah to see if he has a report yet.

**Arbor Day Review:**    The committee discussed Arbor Day. There were no problems, location was good, and the band was good.

Steve Cox stated that the Mayor wants the flag placed on a flag pole. He will check to see where will be the best location.

**Plantings:**          Donna stated that she forgot the list of trees that need to be planted and will report at next meeting. The trees that were planted with grant monies, we need to maintain and or replace.

**MOTION:**          Sauny Williams made a motion to contract for planting the tree replacements. Willis Ridenour seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on maintenance of the trees. Steve Cox stated that Bob Russell can't do this by himself, this time of year is the busiest with the pools, etc.

Andy Sheetz stated that Charleston has 2 full time tree crews with equipment.

Discussed how to contract for street tree maintenance. The Committee will look further into dividing the areas in grids. Donna will bring maps to the next meeting and the committee will review.

Donna passed photos that she took on Plum Street where a citizen decided to cut the trees in front of her house. The trees were heavily damaged.

Willis stated that he has contacted Chillicothe, OH about their Historic Trees. They will be getting in touch with him about where to purchase the trees.

**Tree Ordinance Changes:**    Turner Sharp appointed the following people for the Ordinance Review Committee:  
Pamela Lutz – chairman  
Willis Ridenour  
Sauny Williams

They will report back next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Donna stated that Lonna from WTAP contacted her and asked if the Tree Commission would be interested in accepting trees from Scots' Landscaping and WTAP/Fox. WTAP/Fox are running an ad in conjunction with Scots' until June 7<sup>th</sup> that for every tree that is sold, Scots' will be donating a tree. Donna advised that she made an administrative decision and stated yes we would accept any trees. There are 2 other cities involved also. Donna stated that maybe if we receive any trees that these could be replacements for the memorial trees.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Discussion on the trees that are being affected by the caterpillars. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Fairview along the cemetery are leafless. Andy Sheetz advised the best way to rid of the caterpillars is to burn.

Betty Camp advised that she attended Earth Day at WVU-P and she discussed the number of hardwood trees that are being destroyed by mountain top removal.

Andy Sheetz advised that West Virginia is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most forested state in the United States. There are 3 trees for every 1 tree cut.

With no further business, Pamela Lutz made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Sauny Williams.

Meeting adourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Davis