

Tree Board
June 20, 2024

Attending: Kristin Youngquist, Cliff Ruehl, Amy Spencer, Eric Gansauer and Catherine Trotter

Amy Spencer and Cliff Ruehl were welcomed as new board members. They were thanked for their willingness to serve. Cliff is filling the education position and Amy is the environmental representative. Kristin reviewed the board's duties and responsibilities, and she cited sections 9.2.6 and 4.6.18 of the Unified Development Ordinance as a reference.

Cliff asked if the Consolidated Government has plans to hire a City Arborist. The City has been without an Arborist for three years. While Eric is considered as serving in this role, he is actually the Forest Administrator and not a Division Manager. The board agreed to once again let the minutes reflect its concern over the vacancy in this position. All believe hiring a City Arborist should be a priority.

Old Business

- Kristin and Catherine both complete their at-large terms on the board in December. Replacements will be needed in January.

New Business

- Eric presented preliminary plans for a proposed body shop on Beaver Run Road that requires a buyout. The developers say they can't meet the tree requirements and that they will pay \$11,088. The requirement calls for 53 trees – only 25 will be planted. Eric recommends accepting this buyout.
- The Ordinance needs updating/revamping. Several items were mentioned to include: historically registered trees, establishing certain areas in the city that would require approval for cutting down trees on private property and requiring that more than a 20% variance go before the board for approval.

All of these considerations would need to go to the City Attorney's office for review before finalizing.

- Eric has submitted a recommendation to update the price of trees from \$220 to \$500.

There being no further business Kristin thanked everyone for attending. She would like for the next meeting to be in person possibly at Trees Columbus in September or October.