

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 21, 2018
5:30 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, May 21, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Howard Fescemyer, Chairperson
Darlene Chivers, Vice-Chairperson, absent
Jerry Learn
Marc McDill, absent
Mike Jacobson

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Marcella Bell, Recording Secretary; and Barbara Maddox, Ferguson Township resident

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fescemyer called the Monday, May 21, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

III. RESIDENT COMPLAINT

Ms. Barbara Maddox attended the Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC) meeting to discuss the destruction of her driveway due to a Township Street Tree located at 2440 Park Center Boulevard. Ms. Maddox explained that her driveway is cracked like puzzle pieces due to a Township tree being planted too close to her driveway. She went on to say that she has had two sprouts from the roots of the aforementioned tree come up through her driveway. At one point, she had a contractor come in and install a barrier near the tree to keep its roots from growing under her driveway. She explained that unfortunately it did not work and at this point, she sprays herbicide to keep the tree roots from protruding through her driveway. She stated that the cracks in the bottom portion of her driveway have started to extend towards her garage. Ms. Maddox stated that she has plans to replace her driveway this year, however, it won't solve the problem of the tree roots growing underneath her driveway. She went on to say that it will only be a matter of time before her new driveway is cracked from the tree roots. She would like the Tree Commission to consider removing the tree from the right-of-way, and she offered to pay the cost of a new tree, depending on the cost. Ms. Maddox expressed that she should not have to bear the burden of the cost every few years to replace her driveway due to a Township Street Tree.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the aforementioned tree. Mr. King stated that this is not the only property in this particular neighborhood that has this problem—this is, however, the worst of them. In response to a question from

Mr. Jacobson, Mr. King stated that the sidewalk between Ms. Maddox's driveway has not cracked or buckled, but it most likely will in the future. Mr. King went on to explain that once the old driveway is removed and before the new driveway is installed, barriers can be installed deeper next to the driveway, however, he can't guarantee that the tree roots won't grow under them. The members of the Tree Commission were concerned with setting a precedence for this kind of situation. If the Township removes the tree in this case, it might be setting a precedence to remove other Street Trees that are affecting residential driveways. The Tree Commission members would like a chance to look at the driveway during its tree tour in July and will make a decision in August. Mr. King will put this item on the June agenda for a reminder.

IV. SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT (SALDO) AND ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Mr. King stated that all of the Tree Commission's comments were passed onto Planning & Zoning Director, Ray Stolinis to be passed onto the Township's consultant, Environmental Planning and Design (EPD) for the SALDO and Zoning Ordinance update. Mr. King will keep this item on future agendas to keep the Tree Commission updated.

V. 2018-C13 STREET TREE PLANTING

Mr. King updated the FTTC on the 2018-C13 Street Tree Planting contract. He explained that most of the plantings were done about a week ago. He still needs to inspect some of the trees. He stated that everything he has seen so far looks very good. He reported that one of the newly planted trees on Blue Course Drive blew over in the wind storm last week, however, the contractor came back to fix the tree and staked it as well. Mr. King stated that there are about two or three other trees that are staked. The contractor is responsible to ensure that the trees are growing straight in a year. Mr. King will wrap up his inspections this week.

VI. ARBOR DAY 2018

Mr. Fescemyer thanked Mr. King for all of his hard work to put the 2018 Arbor Day together and stated that it was a great event and went very well.

Mr. King stated that most of the trees that were planted are in cribs (fences) but other plant materials that were donated were placed elsewhere. The trees were tubed as well. He reported that there were about 60 people in attendance and the weather held off until after the event.

VII. STONEBRIDGE PLANTING CONTRACT

Mr. King reported that he attended another Stonebridge HOA meeting about two weeks ago. He stated that there are about 20 properties that have requested the planting of trees. He has given the HOA until July 1, 2018 to respond back to him regarding whether or not they would like the Township to plant trees on their property. He explained that if the Township plants 2 trees per property, there will

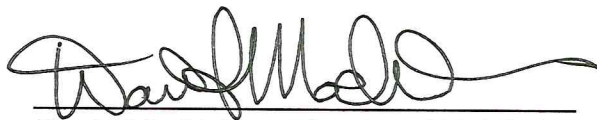
be between 40-50 trees for the Stonebridge neighborhood in next year's tree planting contract. After July 1, 2018, Mr. King will meet with each property owner that would like a tree to discuss what kind of trees the property owner might want and where they would like them to be located. Mr. King explained that in the past three years, the Township has planted around 150 trees in the street tree planting contract each year. The first two years the trees that were planted were mostly replacement trees, however, this year's contract was 50/50 replacement trees and new trees. Mr. King won't know the amount of trees that need to be replaced until July, and sometimes a few other replacement trees pop up afterwards.

VIII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that the Tree Commission has heard most of his report in other items of the meeting. He stated that the Township Public Works crew planted four trees at the Tudek Dog Park and eight trees in the Fairbrook Park Parking Lot. These trees were planted due to the upgrades to the parks last year. The Township had to remove the dead Ash Trees from Fairbrook Park last year, however, the trees were not planted until this year because the Fairbrook Park parking lot was paved recently. Mr. King reported that the Township lost a Crabapple Tree on Martin Street last week, and he is not sure how it happened. Mr. King stated that there are two phases of the Landings development that the developer has requested a surety release from, so he will need to inspect the trees in order to release the surety. After the trees are inspected, the developer will submit a maintenance bond for the trees.

With no further business, the May 21, 2018 Tree Commission regular meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Modricker', written over a horizontal line.

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission