

## Minutes

### Village of Kirkland Tree Advisory Commission

08-12-2025

I. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

II. Roll Call—Present were Jim Stark, Brian Benes, Dawn Darling, Mindy Quigley, Michelle Chambers and Jeff Miller; Matt Fleix was absent.

### III. Old Business

A. The minutes of 06-17-2025 were read and approved.

B. Urban Forestry Plan—we will add to the UFP a new goal: a long term partnership with the Hiawatha High School agriculture classes and FFA to grow saplings.

C. Tree List—Jeff revised the Recommended Tree List to incorporate new trees that Matt and Mindy recommended. The trees are grouped by parkway (6-foot or 10-foot) size now. Jeff reported on his attempt to get an updated price list from St. Aubin for the trees on the list; he was partially successful. Mindy reported that Johnson's Nursery in southern Wisconsin supplies trees to St. Aubin. Dawn asked if we could share our tree list with Johnson Nursery to help make sure the tree varieties we recommend are available. Jim pointed out that with budget constraints, Public Works will not have the personnel to plant or water any new trees.

D. Rain Barrel—It has not been installed yet. Dawn said it will be installed soon.

E. Tree Commission Link on Village Website—Brian reported that a link has been established as follows: Village of Kirkland website—"Community Links"—>"Kirkland Tree Commission"—> Facebook page of the Kirkland Tree Commission. We still would like to ask Village Clerk Leslie to work with the IT person to create a place on the Village website for the Tree Commission to post a) minutes b) recommended tree list c) permit applications

### IV. New Business

A. 50-50 Parkway Tree Plantings—Jim reported that so far four residents have turned in applications for five trees, with only a few days left until the August 15 deadline for submitting applications. The pharmacy should be approached about going 50-50 to plant a tree (we would need to verify the parkway boundaries). The Commission discussed other parkway sites that need trees: a) the entrance(s) to Kennedy Homes b) along the parkway at the entrance to the Kirkwood neighborhood c) by the War memorial on Main Street. In the future, if we plant trees on residents' parkway spaces without 50-50 cost sharing, we could assuage any ill feelings from residents who did pay half by holding a drawing among the paying residents for a free tree.

B. Trees Needing Replacement—Jim reported that he sent emails with photos to St. Aubin regarding three dead or dying trees they sold us: an Armstrong Maple on Sixth Street, a Chinese Peking Lilac at 507 Forest Street, and a Sweetgum in the Kennedy neighborhood. St. Aubin said they would get back to us. Dawn suggested that if St. Aubin does not replace the trees, they could give us a credit, but if they do neither, we should still make those residents whole by buying new trees. Brian suggested we do this in the spring when we know how much is left in the forestry budget, and we could donate our "sweat equity" to dig up the dead trees and plant the replacements.

C. Partnership With Hiawatha High School Agriculture Classes and FAA to Grow Saplings—Brian reported he intends to send an email to Mr. Dodge, the high school Ag teacher, to outline what a partnership could look like. Some of its key elements could be:

- High school agriculture classes and the FFA plant the saplings from seed for trees on the Village's Recommended Tree List (Mindy will reach out to Morton Arboretum about their large selection of seeds for sale.)

- Trees are grown in pots until they reach a size that would make them viable for planting in the ground, at which time 75 % of the trees could be donated to the Village to plant on parkways and open spaces. The other 25% could be offered free to residents or to students and their families involved in the program, at graduation, so they can plant them in their parkways or yards.

V. Next meeting--Tuesday, September 9 at 7 PM

VI. Adjournment at 8:04 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeff Miller