

ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2017 6:00 PM

RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 2ND FLOOR

In Attendance: Tom Koldys, Angie Sturm, Jeff Young, Alec Kaeding & Stina Booth.

Absent: Joan McGinn & Barbara Weinstein.

Staff Members Present: Kelly Viens, Recreation Director & Andrew Gratton, Program Manager.

Guests: Josh Lareau.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

2. Designate committee members who will meet Josh Lareau at Houghton Park to determine specific location(s) of permaculture installation(s).

- meeting time set for Sunday 3/26 2:00

- Jeff & Alec set to go, possibly Tom

- Discussion about location, proximity to water

3. Consider request from BFA environmental science students to hang bird feeders in Taylor Park as part of a project (D&V).

- Information from Tom- students would observe species, project completion before maple fest, and low level of sophistication (i.e. no cameras to monitor).

A Motion was made by Jeff Young; seconded by Alec Kaeding to allow environmental students to complete their project before maple fest. Kelly Viens added that City Hall has given the OK. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

4. Consideration of tree plantings to replace Houghton Park Cottonwoods.

- Jeff suggests several species that are native and would be appropriate

- Josh agrees with ideas for secession plantings

- Jeff discusses challenges left by cottonwood stumps, suggests seeding over stumped areas, Angie suggest shrubs (willows)

- Tom suggests a prioritized list

- Jeff suggests 10-12 large trees, at least 10 varieties with a diversity of species:

- Silver maple
- Bicolor oaks (white oaks)
- Box elders
- Hawthorne
- Tulip tree
- American mountain ash
- Hackberry
- River birch
- Black cherry
- Fir
- Spruce
- Hemlock
- White or red pine
- Cedars
- Larch
- Northern Katalpa

- Josh proposes using his environmental studies class that's looking for a project, to target Houghton Park with supplemental understory plantings, Josh will check on class logistics, Kelly will check on logistics from the City.

The Parks Commission is in consensus on Josh Lareau's environmental science class installing shrubs and understory trees along the stream bank in Houghton, funded by an EPA grant, completed before May.

5. Angie's List – Updates and discussion on future direction.

- Discussion about recommending a parks maintenance position

- Discussion about best practice to recommend items to the City Council and get answers

- Stina recommends generating a spreadsheet to list items, proposed action, who to contact, motions/votes, response/follow-up, dates (for when to recommend, for when to expect results), if it repeats

- Discussion about who should recommend a parks maintenance position (parks commission vs Taylor park steering committee)

- Discussion about arts initiatives- who should initiate?

Discussion about resurfacing/fixing playground surface and creating a surface for Taylor Park instruments

Discussion about changing the recommended tree species

6. Consider approval of meeting minutes: 1/3/17 (D&V).

A motion was made by Jeff Young; seconded by Angie Sturm to accept meeting minutes from 1/3/17. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

7. Adjourn

A motion was made by Tom Koldys; seconded by Alec Kaeding to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stina Booth

Approved