

# MINUTES OF THE SUNSET HILLS

## TREE BOARD

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007

The City of Sunset Hills Tree Board met on Monday, August 6 2007 in the Public Works Conference Room at 3939 S. Lindbergh Blvd. The meeting convened at 7:12 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Bruce Vawter -Chairman  
Blake Harris -Member  
Joel Malke -Member  
Farrell Simmons -Member

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Malke made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2007 meeting as submitted. Mr. Simmons seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

### DISCUSSION OF A TREE ORDINANCE

Mr. Vawter stated it is desired for the Tree Ordinance to be on the agenda for the August 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen meeting.

Mr. Vawter stated the first two thirds of the manual concerns tree pruning and planting. The first sections concern public trees such as park trees, city hall trees and trees of city right-of-ways.

Mr. Vawter stated that the tree manual also addresses tree permits.

Mr. Vawter advised that the tree manual was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission last week. The Commission had some questions. He stated that he explained to the Commission the tree manual is regarding trees on public property and any property when a building permit is required.

Mr. Vawter stated that Section 1 of the manual addresses maintenance, pruning, what is allowed and not allowed on public trees, watering, pesticides, etc. Section 2 addresses installation of trees. He then commented that Section 3 is a section that the members have not thoroughly discussed. This first part of the section is tree preservation requirements on sites that are three acres or more in size. He explained that the property owner or developer has to secure a tree permit prior to removal or destruction commences. The application for a tree permit will be submitted to the office of the Director of Planning and Development, Anne Lamitola. The applicant will be required to apply a surety or a cash escrow payable to Sunset Hills to offset trees that may die. The amount will be \$2,500 for each acre or fraction thereof up to \$5,000, whichever is greater. The escrow will not be required for applicants building on single family residential zoned lots. If there is one house being built on four acres, the escrow will not be needed which seems to have worked in cities such as Webster Groves and Kirkwood.

Mr. Vawter stated that the Director of Planning will review all tree permits requesting tree removal and the applications have to be returned approved, approved with conditions or denied within 45 days of receipt to the city. If the tree permit application is denied, it can be appealed to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Vawter stated that Section 3 also addresses required tree protection on tracts equal to or greater than three acres in size, no more than 70% of the tree canopy coverage can be developed, the remaining 30% shall be maintained without disturbing the roots of the trees or protective area or any value tree. Value trees are defined in front of the manual.

Mr. Vawter stated that 30% of the woodland coverage needs to be retained. Anything over 30% will need tree replacement. If replacement cannot be done, the money goes to the city and is placed into a tree fund that is used for

tree planting on public property.

Mr. Vawter stated that the tree manual also addresses replacement standards.

Mr. Vawter stated that on sites less than three acres, a permit will be needed to remove anything over eight inches.

Mr. Vawter stated that there will be minor errors such as typos corrected before the final draft is forwarded to the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Vawter stated that Mr. Vic Vigil, certified arborist, in the Park Department will be involved with inspections.

Mr. Vawter stated that there will be a penalty of \$250 for each separate offense and will go through municipal court. The penalty will apply to any person who violates any provisions of the Ordinance and is found guilty of the violation.

The members thanked Mr. Vawter for his time and effort put forth in the manual.

Mr. Malke made a motion to recommend approval of the Tree Manual with word sculpting to be completed. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Simmons made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Recording Secretary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Govreau".

Laurie Govreau