Notes from August 16 2018 Tree Revitalization Committee Meeting

Attending: Susan and Mike Whitehead, Chris and Tom Comte, John Morrow, Rachel Comte, Joy Bishop, Mike Rosenberg, Pam Wilcox, Pat Altineau, James Englert, DeeAnn and Dave Helm, Becky and Ben Echtenkamp, Mike Haley, MaryJo Gerwe

**Report from Rachel**

* Rachel shared a review of the number and size of Newport’s trees as well as the current status of trees experiencing dieback. Of approximately 124 trees requiring removal, primarily for public safety reasons, 40, mostly Ash, are slated for removal this year (including stumps). The city currently has no financial capacity to replace these trees.
* The city is considering a plan for a ten zone/year cycle of pruning/inventorying trees. The younger (read recently planted) trees could be pruned by trained volunteers. Approximately 747 trees out of a total of 3000 are under 4 inches in diameter.
* A winter training and pruning program might include two 3 hour training sessions (including practicum), possibly on Saturdays in January, with volunteer pruning teams notifying affected residents and working in February and March.
* The City is also reviewing a new tree ordinance that will spell out responsibilities and authority regarding trees on public property and perhaps the establishment of a tree fund.

**Westside trees - Josh Tuning**

* Josh Tunning has indicated the Westside could use ERGC assistance on future tree plantings (perhaps 2 a year) – primarily finding help.

**2019 Tree Planting**

* Agreement reached on 2019 planting
* Discussion covered
  + How to promote and coverage area. Tentatively agreed to area west to Monmouth. Advance notice must go out to the affected/potential contributor public to generate interest. How to reach out remains a question.
  + City is considering a canopy cover goal – perhaps maintain the current 33% but with more evenly distributed canopy.
  + Should we have a plan to replace many of the lost Ash trees? Since a large number being taken down on Washington this year are on Hemmer property, Rachel intends to reach out to the Hemmer company.
  + The tree planting committee must be up and running by December
* Tree Planting Committee Leadership
  + Need someone to chair the Tree Revitalize Committee Project
  + Susan Whitehouse agreed to again manage tree ordering and funds.
  + Mike Rosenberg agreed to write a grant proposal to Duke Energy – Deadline August 31.
  + Rachel Comte will again handle tree selection and purchases.
  + As with previous years, people need to take on various aspects of promotion, site evaluations, volunteer recruitment, signage, etc. We’ve done it all in the past so a fairly good model exists for next year.
* Next meeting is scheduled for October 25, same place and time.

Ash tree removal update

Ash Tree replacement?

Tree ordinance

Plans for ongoing maintenance of tree canopy

Winter 2018 pruning project?

Westside trees - Josh Tuning

tree plantings x2 per year

ERGC collaboration - funding (they have $3K)

Fall 2019 tree planting

Chair person

Date

Tasks

Gathering funding

ERHF

Grants - Duke Foundation grant application due 8/31/2018

Other?

Advertising

Voice

listserv

panels, signage, other?

Orders and site evaluation

Informational Property owner visits

Tree selection and order

Volunteer recruitment and management

Hospitality