



3RD WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD

January 13, 2016

AGENDA

- Tree Planting – Neighborhood Parkways.
- City Logo and Tagline

GUESTS

- City Arborist, Jason Ostrowski
- Ad hoc branding committee: Tony and Zack

WELCOME

Thank you for coming, Jason Ostrowski is here to discuss care, planting and removal of parkway trees. Guests, Tony and Zack to discuss Des Plaines branding.

TREE TALK

There are 750 trees planted this past spring in the City of Des Plaines. Trees are diversified in type to give the city an urban forest appeal. Letters were sent out with a list of trees available for residents to choose. There is a specific criteria sent out to local nurseries when the city makes up their requested list of trees. Replacement trees are approximately 2 ½ to 3 feet. The height of the tree depends on the tree type. Ash trees had to be taken down due to being infected with the Emerald Ash Borer.

- What about Dutch Elm Disease? It's still around. It is not as prevalent as years ago because there is an injection that can be used though quite expensive.
- Gingko Trees? Gingkoes are one of the oldest trees their leaves are similar to that of a web foot and does not have many branches. Leaves will drop in 1 day and fall color is a nice gold.



Proper planting is key to the growth of the tree. The top of the root ball should be at grade level. The root ball is wrapped in burlap (never plastic – City will only use degradable material). Newly planted trees come with a “gator” that is filled and needs filling at least once a week, which the homeowner is responsible. After 1 year, the gators are discarded. Trees are not tied; rarely does a tree need to be staked to grow straight and found that tethered strings leave marks on the bark.

- Are homeowners allowed to plant a tree on parkway? Not recommended. City plants the tree on parkway at no cost to homeowner. Homeowner's responsibility includes watering and leaf pick up. Any trimming of the tree is done by the City.
 - City has standards on the cutting and trimming of trees. Yes, at times a tree can look severe when trimmed, especially in winter.
 - City does not trim trees on private property. There are people on staff that can answer “tree” questions and the City will come out and take a look at the tree. City is not allowed to give out referrals for tree removal services. City recommends a homeowner get 3 or 4 referrals before deciding on a tree service. NOTE: Lowest cost does not necessarily mean the right service for your tree removal.
- Homeowners with no sidewalks, how is a parkway considered? Parkway is measured from the center of street; approximately 35-75 feet.
- Spacing between Trees? Someone will come out to evaluate the planting area. Trees are planted away from driveways and sidewalks so as not to have roots eventually lift the sidewalk cement.
- There are small branches coming out of the base of the tree, what does it mean? These are tree shoots and is nothing bad.

CITY ARBORISTS

City has 3 certified Arborists. The City's Forestry Staff belongs to the Illinois Arborist Association. A Certified Arborist is capable of tree ID, familiar with tree diseases, pruning safety and receive updates regularly.

ComEd and TREE TRIMMING

Commonwealth Edison has their own tree trimming vegetation management. The City of Des Plaines works with ComEd guidelines. ComEd will come out to trim trees that are interfering with power lines. If a tree on private property, is interfering with power line(s), homeowner needs to contact ComEd.

LOGO and TAG LINE:

Zack and Tony spoke at our Ward Meeting regarding the City's new Tag Line "Good Move". Zack points out that re-branding was done as an effort to revitalize Des Plaines and bring in more business. Growing up in Des Plaines got Tony and Zack into a discussion with a group of friends that were also residents of the Des Plaines to discuss the City's re-branding. Logo is launched. It is on vehicles and stationery.

Ad hoc committee wants to put "something" together that would represent our City. Des Plaines is a city of a diversified group of people with a wealth of knowledge and talent. One focus is to change the downtown banners from "stock photos" that do not depict our City to photos and images related to and put a better face on Des Plaines. There must be an archive of Des Plaines images available.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The challenge is how to get people involved? Suggestions were made to hold a discussion for residents interested in hearing and giving feedback on branding. NorthStar conducted a survey throughout the city before completing the new brand.

Des Plaines put out an RFQ. NorthStar responded and showed they had past experience working with the cities in the Northwest Suburbs.

CITY ISSUES

- Is there a Burn Policy? Burning wood should be in UL approved containers and to use seasoned wood only away from structures, wires, trees, etc.
- Reminder that there is no parking after a 2" snowfall. Residents can call police to have vehicles ticketed if parked on a snow route.
- Noise on tracks by Prairie Lakes? The noise is coming from a switch heater on the tracks.

NEXT MEETING

February 10, 2016
Prairie Lakes – 7:00 p.m.

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