

APPROVED
VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH
TREE COMMISSION
Virtual
March 2, 2021 6:30 PM

- A. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Garrison at 6:30 PM
- B. **ROLL CALL**-Present were Scott Garrison, Tony Harper, Kurt Hansen, Kevin Scheiwiller, Mary Kozub and Village Liaison Shawn Walkington.
- C. **PUBLIC COMMENT**- None
- D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Kozub motioned to approve the minutes from January 5 seconded by Commissioner Hansen. All were in favor.
- E. **OLD BUSINESS**- Chairman Garrison asked about Tree inventory program. Liaison Walkington said the inventory is in Arc gis, but needs to be updated.
- F. **ARBOR DAY**- Liaison Walkington said Arbor Day foundation is not requiring a tree planting for Tree City, but they do require a proclamation. Arbor day will be May 1st at Kuechmann.
- G. **TREE CITY GROWTH AWARD**- Commission went over criteria to get growth award.
- H. **NEW BUSINESS**- Commissioner Kozub updated the Commission on playscape for Kuechmann Arboretum. They hope to have everything built by Earth day (April 2021). Commissioner Kozub thanked Commissioner Harper for his Dripline articles. Articles will be submitted with Tree Commission minutes. Chairman Garrison talked about Budget. He would like to see money put in for tree trimming. Chairman Garrison talked with Mayor Poynton. He stated he was not pleased with the development in Kildeer and would like to see more tree preservation. Commissioner Harper would like to know what the regulations for public comment. How do they sign in and what's time limit for comments. Liaison Walkington will find out the regulations for next meeting.
- I. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion was made by Commissioner Hansen, seconded by Commissioner Kozub to adjourn the meeting. Voice votes, AYES have it. **MOTION CARRIED**
Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Shawn Walkington

Approved by: Scott Garrison
Scott Garrison Chairman

Date: 4/6/21

THE DRIP LINE:

A Missive for Those Interested in the Urban Forest

2021 March. Volume 2. Issue 3.

A HOLISTIC VIEW OF THE URBAN FOREST:

It is interesting to contemplate the probability of an earth environment either on or in the lithosphere, on or in the hydrosphere, or in the atmosphere not being influenced by our species' presence. The probability is [most probably] zero; end of contemplation..... but not of interest. Even microbes existing kilometers deep in the crust have been accessed by our probing technology, and there is also a booming intellectual industry devoted to discovering the existence of life, intelligent life, beyond earth. [If and when we make contact with extraterrestrial life-supporting environments, our environmental influence, no matter how weak at the time, will also represent an alteration of yet another type of environment.] The point here is that not only are we intruders into all manner of earth environments and those beyond, but that we are also part of all those environments into which we have inserted ourselves directly or indirectly, *and we cannot entangle ourselves from them because of our intrusion*. Environmental study then implies at least a portion of that study being holistic in nature.

This notion of holism applies particularly to our understanding and effective stewardship of the urban forest. Too often we find an us-and-them attitude about the aspects of our urban forest that do not bring us immediate reward rather than having a sense of responsibility, attachment, engagement, and involvement in the totality of all the environments including the urban forest to which we are a part. This is particularly true with regard to our niche constructing capacities; we alter or create environments that then feed back on us. The invention of the shower and then the colonization of the aerosol environment due to shower spray by *Legionella*, the pathogen causing Legionnaires' Disease, is a prime example of such niche construction. How we modify our urban forest, even by default of appropriate stewardship, should and must be a point of interest if not a bonafide concern.

HEROS OF THE URBAN FOREST:

There are two groups of people who should be recognized for their ongoing work in support of the urban forest. First of course are those either formally or informally who work specifically to maintain and expand the urban forest. In no particular order are all interested parties either formally or informally who have devoted time to the upkeep of the UF. Of the former category are all members everywhere on official Tree Commissions, Lake Zurich's Tree commissioners certainly, but every member nationally. It should also be noted that the Lake Zurich Ancient Oaks Society falls into this category. And then there is a select group who by their support of urban and suburban gardens enhance the general environment of which the urban forest is a part. [See above: A HOLISTIC VIEW OF THE URBAN FOREST.] These individuals are the urban and suburban housewives [and to some extent urban and suburban husbands et al] whose gardening efforts support a more biodiverse community. Well done and thank you!

DRIP LINE POLICY & PERSPECTIVE:

The intent of this embryonic publication is to inform about pertinent issues regarding the urban forest. This intent is broad-based, and specific selection of what is or is not to appear in THE DRIP LINE will remain solely in the hands of the staff....that would be me, Tony Harper. Also note that every effort will be made to keep the length of this missive to one page, back-to-back.

The ecological perspective of this missive is bio-cultural, i.e. that we are part of the environmental system, the earth-system/world-system complex. As a consequence, there can be no us-versus-them stance with respect to what is and what is not *natural*; we, among the organisms of the world, are all part of the same system. As a consequence, the topics reported on here will have the perspective of holism. Further, and this is mildly heretical, this missive takes the perspective that conservation efforts are short-term and stop-gap at best; conservation efforts, as important as they are, do NOT address the roots of our 21st Century environmental problems per se. These problems are *wicked* problems in the academic sense of the word, and as a result, they will require interdisciplinary efforts for their resolution, i.e. the efforts not only of ecologists and environmentalists but of economists, members of the business community, and more generally of the L.Z. populace (and beyond) at large.