

APPROVED
VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH
TREE COMMISSION
Virtual
May 4, 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 Harper motioned to approve the minutes from March 2 seconded by Commissioner Hansen. All were in favor.
- E. OLD BUSINESS- Chairman Garrison asked about Living memorial for Covid pandemic. Staff informed him that they are not pursuing it at this time. Chairman Garrison asked about Budget. Liaison Walkington did not hear anything new on Forestry Budget.
- F. MANAGEMENT PLAN- Commission discussed Forestry management plan. Commission reviewed management plans from Chrystal Lake and Minooka. Chairman Garrison stated that most of the things in their plans are in our Ordinance.
- G. TREE CITY GROWTH AWARD- Commission went over criteria to get growth award. Commission picked categories D6 planting trees, D8 Young tree pruning and A12 continued Education.
- H. NEW BUSINESS- Commissioner Hansen said he heard City of Los Angeles is planting Callery Pear trees for free. While in St Louis they are giving people Native trees if they remove their Callery Pear trees. Chairman Garrison thanked Commissioner Harper for his Dripline articles and Commission discussed current article.
- I. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Commissioner Scheiwiller, 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: 6/1/21

THE DRIP LINE:

A Missive for Those Interested in the Urban Forest

2021 May. Volume 2. Issue 5.

THE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION/COMMUNITY INTERFACE:

An interesting comparison can be made with respect to the differences in obligation between the housing construction industry and the responsibilities of students in, say, higher education. In the latter, if a submission is made, it is graded, and the grade becomes part of the record of the student. In the housing construction industry and in the construction industry more generally this appears not to be so. I have been a member of the Lake Zurich Tree Commission since its inception, with a two plus year hiatus about nine years ago, and during my tenure in toto I can count on one hand the number of landscape plans that have been given approval on first pass: the conditions for acceptable landscaping simply have not been met in the majority of cases, although these conditions are always provided to potential builders. It is as if the waters of municipal judgement are being tested to see how deep they are, and if found shallow, then construction industry effort (and funds) can be allocated elsewhere. For the sake of Lake Zurich, the assiduousness and integrity of the L. Z. Tree Commission members has been thankfully steadfast. I was told by another member of the Commission that a construction minimalist approach on first pass of plans is standard business practice; this practice is however wasteful of time and resources on both ends of this relationship. Clearly a plea should be made to the construction industry community to exercise more initial effort into first pass acceptability; this is a win-win proposition. Enough said.

ENHANCING INSECT BIODIVERSITY IN THE URBAN FOREST; INSECT HOTELS ARE AN ANSWER:

The biodiversity of the urban forest is key to avoiding insect pest infestations. Tree monocultures are ripe for invasion of pests; tree species multi-cultures are not. Counterintuitively, enhancing insect biodiversity itself is a means of reducing pest invasion, as the greater the insect diversity, the lower the chance of any potential pest getting a foothold on (general) resources and having a population explosion. To this end of enhancing insect biodiversity, insect hotels provide an answer. Insect hotels are nothing more than logs, say refuse from tree trimming or even Christmas

tree abandonment, drilled with multiple holes of different sizes and placed or hung appropriately, so that a variety of insects have a specialized space in which to live and breed. Below is a link to such hotel construction. Please build for the future.

<https://dirthappy.com/insect-hotel/>

FYI's:

The Enos reference is simply a reminder, if one is needed at all, of the prominence that forests have played and will continue to play in our (sustained) existence.

Ennos R. 2020. *The Age of Wood: Our Most Useful Material and the Construction of Civilization*. New York: Scribner.

The reference below is a synopsis of a paradigm setting book of (essentially) the same title and also by the same listed editors. For me, and possibly for you, the core idea of cyclical change through time is paramount to understanding the ongoing and future changes of the 21st Century, changes in the urban forest included.

_____. 2002. *Panarchy: Understanding Transformations in Human and Natural Systems*. Eds. Gunderson L and Holling C. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

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.