

APPROVED
VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH
TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 1, 2022 6:30 PM

- A. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Garrison at 6:30 PM
- B. ROLL CALL-Present Tony Harper, Kurt Hansen, Kevin Scheiwiller, Mary Kozub, Scott Garrison and Village Liaison Shawn Walkington.
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT- None
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Commissioner Kozub motioned to approve the minutes from January 4 seconded by Commissioner Harper. All were in favor.
- E. OLD BUSINESS- Commissioner Kozub asked about trees in Paulus park. Commission discussed possible ways for vendors to pay for tree maintenance after events. Commissioner Kozub will attend next Park and Rec board meeting.
Chairman Garrison asked about tree inventory. Liaison Walkington said he can get an Ipad to start gathering data. Chairman Garrison also asked Commissioner Hansen to reach out and see if they needed any help.
Chairman Garrison asked about the Memorial tree for Covid. Liaison Walkington said the Mayor was supposed to talk with Chairman Garrison about the tree.
- F. ARBOR DAY- Liaison Walkington said Arbor day will be April 30th at Kuechmann Arboretum. There will be a tree planting and seedlings to give away.
- G. NEW BUSINESS- Chairman Garrison received an Email from the Mayor about Comed Grant. Kyle Kordell has already filled out the application.
- H. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Commissioner Kozub, seconded by Commissioner Schweiller 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: 3/1/22

THE DRIP LINE:

A Missive for Those Interested in the Urban Forest

2022 February. Volume 3. Issue 2.

URBAN FOREST TREE PROFILE:

This is a new offering from the Drip Line and will appear on a semi-regular basis. Each Tree Profile will highlight the biology, ecology, esthetics and utility of a tree common to Upper Midwestern urban forest. The Honey Locust, Gleditsia triacanthos, will be the subject of this months Tree Profile.

The Honey Locust is a common tree of the Eastern Deciduous forest, a member of the Fabaceae Family, a family of plants common to the Central Midwest. These trees may reach heights of 65 to 100 feet and live up to 120 years; this tree does have some timber worth but does not live in dense enough populations to support ongoing harvesting. The Honey Locust has compound leaves (very annoying during the fall) and produces a pod as a fruit, the pulp of which is edible, although this author does not necessarily recommend human consumption of these pods. This tree also has thorns, very possibly an adaptation to avoid being eaten by Pleistocene megafauna, and can be an invasive pest in farmlands. Even so, the Honey Locust is highly adaptable, survives well in an urban habitat, can tolerate compact, alkaline soils, road salt, and both extremes in heat and cold; this makes it well adapted to the urban forests of the Midwest.

MOOC's ABOUT FORESTRY:

On-line education is thriving, particularly in the form of *FREE* MOOC's. For those not in the Know, a MOOC is a Massively Open Online Course, and there are a number of excellent providers: Coursera, FutureLearn, and edX are the ones I am most familiar with and surfing their catalogues will bring you in contact courses on ecology, forestry, environmental sustainability, et al.

THE URBAN FOREST AND WATER:

The University of Arizona supports the largest enclosed forest in the world in an ongoing project called Biosphere 2. A variety of experiments can then be run on this enclosed whole forest system. It was found that forests, and these were tropical forests, responded in interesting ways to experimentally imposed drought. In particular, drought sensitive trees did not go deep when subjected to drought conditions, but those species that were drought-sensitive reduced their water uptake and became involved in the release of volatile organic compounds [VOC's], some of which were cloud-seeders. Also, the soil microbe community was involved in inhibiting the release of VOC's, the significance of which was not determined as of the publication. The urban forest, while significantly more dispersed than a standing endemic forest, in all probability does have some of the above interactions and relationships. To what extent these drought resistant relationships will play a role in the sustainability of a given urban forest remains to be seen, awareness is a first and very important step. See the references below for related articles.

University of Arizona. 2021. Diverse plant water-use strategies make forests more resilient to extreme drought.

<https://phys.org/news/2021-12-diverse-water-use-strategies-forests-resilient.html>

Christiane Werner, Ecosystem fluxes during drought and recovery in an experimental forest, *Science* (2021). DOI:

10.1126/science.abj6789. www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abj6789

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, hence its embryonic status.

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 further 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.