

APPROVED
VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH
TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 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, Mary Kozub, Scott Garrison and Village Liaison Shawn Walkington. Absent Kevin Scheiwiller
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT- None
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Commissioner Kozub motioned to approve the minutes from February 1 seconded by Commissioner Harper. All were in favor.
- E. OLD BUSINESS- Chairman Garrison talked about the Memorial tree for Covid. He spoke with Public works director Mike Brown who said to fill out Memorial tree form.
- F. TREE MAINTENANCE PAULUS PARK- Liaison Walkington said he is meeting with Care of Trees and McGinty Bros to get prices for treatments on the trees effected by Jack o Lantern world.
- G. NEW BUSINESS- Commission discussed Drip Line and ideas for featured trees.
- H. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Commissioner Harper, seconded by Commissioner Hansen 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: 4/5/22

THE DRIP LINE: A Missive for Those Interested in the Urban Forest

2022 March. Volume 3. Issue 3.

THE GENETICS OF TREE-HUGGING BEHAVIOR:

Is tree-hugging behavior, i.e. a respect for nature and a desire to spend time in green spaces, learned or inherited? Chang et al (2022) found a positive correlation between genetics and how long people spend in public green spaces. The genetic component was established by comparing time spent in green spaces by both monozygotic and dizygotic twins. Each twin set was assessed with respect to a questionnaire addressing nature preferences. There was a stronger positive correlation with respect to monozygotic twins spending time in green spaces than dizygotic twins. No such positive correlation was found with respect to twins' time spent in urban environments. While there were clear environmental influences for tree-hugging behavior, i.e. learned cues from the environment, the implication of this study is that there is also a clear genetic component; our humanness requires contact with green spaces and with a green landscape, hence the adaptive worth of the urban forest. We need trees as much as they need us!

Chang C. et al. 2022. People's desire to be in nature and how they experience it are partially heritable. PLOS Biology. As found at:

https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3001500&utm_source=NEOLIFE&utm_campaign=785324466c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_02_02_11_43&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_253ae8788d-785324466c-88707525

THE HISTORY OF THE URBAN FOREST- PART I:

The Egyptians, the Phoenicians, and the Persians, through to the Romans and beyond all had a great appreciation for plant life in general and trees specifically. One has only to remember the Hanging Gardens of Babylon as a prime example of horticulturally accompanied urbanization. Moving

ahead an easy 1000 years to the Paris of the mid-1800's, the boulevards of that City of Light were tree-lined, some of the species used being maples, oaks, and elms. In this country much of the early urban forestry was based on European practices, however, by the early 1900's or perhaps a bit earlier American horticulturists were advocating using native tree species as the prime members of American urban forests. However, urban planners had much to learn with respect to the application of basic ecological principles in the design of urban forests. More on this next month.....

TREE PROFILE:

Tilia americana, the Basswood.

This tree species is native to the Eastern Deciduous Forest of North America, is found as far north as Manitoba east to New Brunswick and south from Oklahoma to South Carolina. It is a medium to large tree extending in height to from 60' to a maximum of 130' and may live to 200 years. It has a domed crown, a spreading bowl, and is supported by a deep and spreading root system. Basswoods support a variety of animal species including but not limited to a variety of nectar eating insects, fruit eating squirrels, mice, and chipmunks, and bark eating rabbits and voles. It is a prized ornamental and is a good shade tree; all of the previous make the Basswood an important member of the urban forest.

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.