

Minutes
Indian Hills Environment Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 14, 2019
Second Presbyterian Church Room 219

Present: LuAnn George, Mimi Zinniel, Cassandra Craig, Lyle Graham, Patricia Vairin, Vance vonBorries, Kimberly Tidwell, Lee Maddox

The meeting was called to order by Mimi at 5:10pm.

Minutes:

Tree Risk Assessment

The Tree Risk Assessment (TRA) project has launched. Ryan Lewis, Urban Forester, has started in Winding Falls/Robinswood and will work westward over the next few months. Neighbors will be alerted periodically via the police department's Indian Hills Alert system.

Ryan will notify us if he sees a tree that needs to be removed immediately to preclude it from falling in a dangerous area. Otherwise, he will submit abbreviated interim reports after finishing each section of Indian Hills, and will provide a complete report after the full assessment is complete.

The TRA for Indian Hills is on public trees only, i.e. on city-owned property such as parks, triangles and woodlands, as well as for trees within the Right of Way (ROW). The ROW area varies from street to street, but generally speaking Mr. Lewis will assess trees within about 15 feet from the edge of the road, making note of unhealthy trees within falling distance of the street.

The Indian Hills Tree Ordinance is still being reviewed. Finn Cato, Indian Hills attorney, is helping to write a new ordinance.

Common areas—Plans & Suggestions.

Jim Graven is working on beautification at entrances. Some residents are concerned that some current plant choices are not appropriate for the specific sites; some may be the wrong size or may not be drought tolerant or deer resistant. Residents may be reluctant to prune and water plants that they did not choose or place. **ACTION NEEDED FROM ALL:** Committee members were asked to informally poll their neighborhoods to ascertain preferences for plantings and other entrance beautification. We can help the Public Works Department by communicating residents' needs and preferences.

Indian Hills' Tree Planting Program.

Bob Astorino and other leaders of the current Indian Hills Tree Canopy Program (which is designed to stimulate private property owners to plant more trees) have decided to consolidate their efforts with our Environment Committee, after their 2019 Program has concluded. The EC discussed ways to help market the program this year and will develop some new ideas for next year. Some early thoughts for future: include understory trees; provide saplings free-of-charge for the homeowner to plant; offer the program(s) every other year. Sometime in early 2020 we will convene all interested parties to offer their ideas.

Erosion and Water Run-off Issues

The Committee would like to see water drainage problems addressed at the source, in an effort to prevent runoff before it becomes eroding floodwater. The Committee hopes to work with Public Works on this issue. This will be an on-going effort; Mimi and LuAnn will spearhead.

Education

Many ideas for Education are coming from Committee members as well as other interested residents.

- Add “tip of the month” type information (examples discussed include watering and pruning trees, appropriate lawn care, how to choose a tree) to the Indian Hills Newsletter (quarterly)
- Develop an EC mini-newsletter to provide articles, websites, landscaper contact info, etc. **Cassandra** indicated she could work on some “good neighbor tips”. “Next Door” website also was discussed as information distribution source.
- Set up an EC table at Octoberfest with Environment Committee info, how-to brochures, ways to get engaged, etc. **LuAnn** will talk to Donna Sinkhorn about getting us a table. **Lyle** volunteered to contact Arbor Day Association and ISA (Int’l Society of Arborists) about getting some free literature.
- Collect email addresses at Octoberfest.
- Develop a Volunteer Program to encourage resident engagement in improving their neighborhood.
- Develop a calendar for outreach events, i.e. seminars, workshops. Market the calendar at Octoberfest.

Miscellaneous

Indian Hills applied for a \$30,000 MSD grant to restore the Muddy Fork bank along Indian Hills Trail. We were informed the grant was not awarded because MSD’s grant funds over the next few years will be limited to projects within the Combined Sewer Outflow area (basically, the old City limits before city/county merger). Indian Hills is outside of the CSO area.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

The next meeting will be held on September 18, 5:00pm, at Second Presbyterian Church room 219.