

**CITY OF GAHANNA
LANDSCAPE BOARD
MINUTES – October 5, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER:

Melissa Hyde, Chair, called the Landscape Board meeting to order on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Gahanna City Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Jane Allinder
Mark DiGiando
Melissa Hyde
Frank O'Hare
Ken Shepherd

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

O'Hare made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2011 meeting; seconded by Shepherd. **On roll call vote:** O'Hare, Yes, Hyde, Yes, Shepherd, Yes, Allinder, Yes, and DiGiando, Yes. **The motion carried 5 – 0.**

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Nothing at this time

HEARING OF VISITORS

OLD BUSINESS:

Emerald Ash Borer

Collins explained that the Ash tree removal program is in place. Letters have been sent to residents regarding their Ash trees and the removal process. Twenty five trees were removed on October 3, 2011. Once training is completed on the new stump grinder Parks staff will begin grinding the stumps.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Landscape Plan

Collins distributed copies of the latest plan to the Board. It is time to review and renew the plan. The current plan does not address the replacement of street trees. Collins would like the Board to bring back recommendations to the next meeting. The board needs to approve the plan at their January meeting.

Board Structure

Collins discussed when the City had continual development the Landscape Board was continually looking at street tree plans, development plans, and commercial development and making recommendations. There was a need to meet to review and approve plans. Now that

development has slowed down maybe the Board should look at the number of times they are required to meet per year or possibly combine the Landscape Board with the Parks & Recreation Board. Collins stated that staff does not want to have the Board meet just for the sake of meeting. With fewer plans coming forward the necessity of having meetings is less.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS:

Nothing at this time

POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:

Allinder asked why the retaining pond west of the MRDD School on Hamilton Road is not being mowed. Allinder stated that the concerns brought to her were that the property looked like an overgrown trash pit. There was an orange barrel at the end of one of the driveways. Is it supposed to look like that?

Collins stated the land is called Sycamore Run Park. The property owned by the City is u-shaped. The center piece of property is not the City's. The eventual intent for the City property is to build a path that connects to Larry Lane/Johnstown Road. The plans are not for an active park where you park and walk out, but a smaller pocket park to connect the residents from the middle of Gahanna to Hamilton Road. The challenge is funding ran out to develop the area. It is currently considered a passive reserve. It is a reserve area that someday will be developed into a nice pocket park. In the meantime, the pond is still functioning as it is suppose to; as a storm water retention basin. Staff is mowing the front section to make sure it is maintained in accordance to street code and paths through the property. There is no reason to mow the property until it is developed. The private plat has been approved for development. It is Collins understanding that the economy has stalled the development. Unfortunately where the houses were does look like abandoned home sites. The city does not own the property and apparently the property must fall within zoning guidelines or the Zoning department would have done something about it.

ADJOURNMENT:

Shepherd made a **MOTION** to adjourn; seconded by Allinder. Motion carried unanimously. The Landscape Board meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Submitted by,

Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2011

Melissa Hyde, Chair