

St. Joseph Tree Board Meeting Minutes
6:30 p.m. – 1st Floor Conference Room
July 16, 2021

CITY CLERK
2021 OCT 22 PM 3:17

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Attendance</u> (mtgs attended-mtgs absent)	<u>Term of Office</u>
Members present:	David Ball, Chairperson	10-0	December 3, 2021
	Daniel Benz, Vice Chairperson	10-0	December 17, 2021
	Gregg Mrkvicka	8-2	January 3, 2023
New Members	Theo Williams	0-2	January 6, 2023
	Mechelle Cox	2-2	January 13, 2023
Staff present:	Peggy Shaw, Code Enforcement Clerk Carol Flury, Neighborhood Services Coordinator		
Visitors –	Martha Clark, Arborist Lonnie Messbarger, Forester Matt with MO Conservation Dept. Quinn Ritzdorf with the St Joseph News Press		

Quorum established with three members present.

David Ball opened the meeting. This was the first meeting since January 2020 due to Covid restrictions. Ball asked for a motion to accept the previous minutes from January 7, 2020 as written. Benz made the motion and Cox seconded the motion. All others – Aye.

Old Business:

Short discussion on Ordinances approved by the City Council in March of 2021.

New Business:

Membership terms were discussed and a copy of the Tree Board member's terms of office was given to Ball.

A letter will be sent to Theo Williams regarding his Tree Board membership and if he is still interested in remaining a member.

A person from SEAC may be interested in joining the Tree Board
New members need to be recruited or possibly re-up with the current members.

A discussion on what is to be accomplished in 2021 was brought up. Ball said that getting out and cutting vines and planting trees is all well and good, but people need to be educated on what is being done by the board. Flury suggested taking kids through the forest and picking up trash.

A tree should still be planted this year. Messbarger recommended after the first frost to plant it.

Benz suggested an article from Science News. This would entail keeping the trees we have alive, taking care of the trees properly, beautifying the city and protecting property. This could include educating people on when to trim limbs to protect the property from damage.

Messbarger said it's best to trim when no leaves are on the trees or a couple months after temperatures are below freezing. When pruning, the smaller the branch the better.

An idea was suggested to go out to the Neighborhood Associations and educate individuals. Ball, Clark and Messbarger could go to the Associations and give a talk this fall. Flury will send a list to Ball of the Neighborhood Associations.

Benz wondered what would be the top home insurers in St Joseph. – such as the Big 5 insurers. American Family was a suggestion. Benz said he would ask around. Possibility of conducting a Conservation workshop and inviting the Insurance Agencies to learn about protection from trees on personal property. Possibly do this in fall such as late September.

Benz said protecting property from poorly maintained trees instead of consistently planting trees could be a new mission for the Board.

Meeting dates were discussed, such as Wednesdays and Cox mentioned after 6:30 works best for her.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the first floor conference room.

Members could possibly email back and forth any ideas they would like considered.

Ball asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Benz made the motion and it was Seconded by Cox. All others aye. Ball adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Shaw
Recording Secretary