

NOTES OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
August 18, 2015

Present: Jim Bower, Karl Graybill, Lin Hanks, Staci Jasin, Christina Leslie, Shirlye O'Leary, Carl Pike, Robert Shenk, Mimi Shapiro

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of the July 21, 2015 meeting and the corrected minutes of the January 30, 2015 meeting were approved (moved Hanks, seconded O'Leary).

Old Business:

New Business:

31-15 As shown in the plans dated August 7, 2015, the Commission approved the removal of trees on the 600 block of N. Cherry St., the 100 block of E. Frederick St., and the 500 block of N. Lime St., approved the general concept for the replacement trees, and deferred action until a subsequent meeting on the specific replacement trees (species and precise locations) (moved Shapiro, seconded Hanks). The replacement species must be chosen to be consistent with the guidelines in city's Arboriculture Manual.

Ms. Cheryl Love of ELA Associates presented the plans for the Lancaster General Hospital Energy Center and Stauffer Building Addition. The Commission had reviewed plans for the Energy Center in October 2014; that plan is now part of the larger project. Following is the record of the October 2014 meeting:

"Cheryl Love of ELA Group presented the plans for the Lancaster General Hospital Energy Center on the south side of the 100 block of E. Frederick St. The proposal requests the removal of two Bradford pears and one little-leaf linden. The trees on this narrow street restrict access by large cranes moving equipment out of and into the building, although the power pole at the same area will remain. The Commission generally supports removal of Bradford pears because of their susceptibility to storm damage. The linden has some trunk damage and showed some stress, but is in fairly good condition; in the absence of the project, retaining it might be recommended. The sidewalk is about eight feet wide, and the planting strip is about three feet wide. There was concern that two trees with fairly wide canopies would be replaced with two very narrow trees (fastigate tulip poplars), thus reducing the potential canopy cover. The Commission felt that, to maintain canopy cover, one or two more fastigate tulip poplars could be planted adjacent to the building (there is less than ten feet clearance between the trunks and the façade), or some other broader tree could be planted elsewhere on the block. There was concern that this species, with upswept branches, would be difficult to maintain at the required height over the sidewalk and roadway. Further discussion of appropriate narrow trees is needed. There was support for

replacing the pear at the east end with a katsura tree. There is some uncertainty about the location of underground utilities; further mapping is needed. Bower and Graybill will investigate if the storm sewer underneath the trees could be removed. If it remains, the city crew will be responsible for stump removal. Bower will supervise trimming of trees on the north side for crane access.

The Commission approved the removal of the three trees (moved O'Leary, seconded Shapiro). The Commission tabled the decision on the replacement trees: how many, species, location, size of tree pits/strips (moved Shapiro, seconded Jasin). The Commission will offer suggestions, and Ms. Love will return at a future meeting."

Extensive relocation of utility lines is necessary to provide access for cranes and for construction staging. Consequently, tree removals are necessary; it was noted that many of the affected trees are dead or in poor condition or an undesirable species.

On E. Frederick St. the utility lines on the north side will be placed underground from N. Cherry St. east to the line crossing the street. Many of the existing trees are in poor condition and there are several Bradford pears (whose removal the Commission generally supports because of their susceptibility to storm damage). There is one very young paperbark maple (at 133) and one young red maple (at 139); in response to a suggestion from the Commission, Ms. Love and the representatives of the owners agreed to make every effort to save the tree(s) if possible and protect them during construction. The replacement trees will be chosen to provide as large a canopy as possible since the overhead lines will have been removed. However, the space is constricted, with only 10 feet between the buildings and the curb, and the steps extending 4 feet from the building line. Planting areas 3.5 to 4 feet wide should be possible. The intent is to lengthen the planting wells as much as possible, considering the presence of utility boxes, etc. The wells may not be all the same length. The trees will be located in relation to steps, breezeways, etc. In response to a Commission suggestion, Ms. Love will consider a continuous planting strip. There was discussion about the use of mulch, pervious pavers, brick, groundcovers, etc. in the planting area to lessen compaction and maximize rainwater infiltration. When Ms. Love returns to the Commission with specific plans for species and locations for the north side, she will also provide such information for the south side (as indicated at the October 2014 meeting).

On N. Lime St. the overhead power lines now on the west side will be relocated to the east side, with underground connections to the hospital. Trees to be removed include 7 younger trees on the west side (2 of which are dead) and 2 on the east side, one large sycamore and one large linden. The sycamore is leaning and has a large wound at the base. There is some existing concern that it is directly opposite the main electrical line into the hospital. Trees on the east side to the north of the sycamore will remain (they are small enough to be under the power lines, for the foreseeable future), as will trees

on both sides to the south of those planned for removal. With the removal of the lines on the west side, larger canopy trees can be planted, to compensate (and beyond) for the loss of canopy because of the removals; also, two more trees will be planted than will be removed. The owner intends to install tree grates and trunk guards on the west side (as are now present). It was suggested that the grates chosen be a type that can easily be enlarged as the tree grows and that the owner monitor the trees so that at the proper time guards can be removed and grates can be enlarged, to prevent damage to the trees. Sidewalks will be repaired as necessary following tree removal and planting. Ms. Love and the owners will investigate the feasibility of two options suggested, either of which would have long term benefits for the tree canopy and might lead to savings (such as reduced cost for tree trimming): (1). Place the power lines underground. This is the best practice for urban areas and removes any concerns for interruptions of service due to storm-caused damage to trees and power lines. (2). Instead of putting the lines on N. Lime St., place them on the street to the east (N. Jefferson St.), with the power to the buildings provided from there instead of from N. Lime St.). This could simplify the construction work on N. Lime St.

The zelkova on N. Cherry St. needs to be removed because the parking lot surrounding it will be used as the temporary helipad. The landing and takeoff pattern required by the PA Department of Transportation necessitates its removal. The tree has a large girdling root. It will be replaced with a large canopy tree in the existing large planting area (which is in the city's right of way) once the helipad has been returned to the building roof. The Commission suggested that instead of a single more expensive 3 to 3.5 inch caliper tree the owner might be able to plant 2 or 3 smaller caliper trees (meeting the city's requirements) for a similar cost, thus ultimately achieving a greater canopy.

32-15 The Commission approved the removal of the maple at 442 W. Walnut St. and replacement with a small/medium canopy tree suitable for under power lines (moved Leslie, seconded Shapiro). The tree has been repeatedly pruned away from the power lines, and further pruning would leave a very poorly formed tree. The tree is root bound in the small planting well. The owner reports that there is water in the basement because of the tree. There is only 6 feet between the stoop and the curb. The owner's contractor believes that a tree well with radius can be installed to meet ADA guidelines. Bower will discuss replacement species with the owner and will confirm proper planting location. As an alternative, the owner of 444 W. Walnut St. has agreed to have the replacement tree planted on that property.

33-15 The Commission denied the removal of the linden at 528 W. Orange St. (N. Pine St. side) (moved Shenk, seconded Jasin). The owner reported conflict with vehicles using the garage. The trunk is far from the driveway. There are low branches overhanging the street. Bower will issue a permit for pruning of the canopy to the required 14 feet above the street and will supervise the pruning.

Discussion Items

1. Update on 26 E. King St. tree replacement. The owners have been informed that the tree removed for construction must be replaced, at the appropriate time in the fall (or later depending on species).
2. Update on sidewalks and trees, Walkability Study. Hanks reviewed ideas under discussion by the Sidewalk Subcommittee. Over the years various sidewalk materials and designs have been used in the city; the pros and cons of each should be reviewed. Graybill noted that the Streetscape Guidelines and Sidewalk Ordinance are up for review, so input on past experience will be valuable. The city wants to continue to be innovative in its practices and to be flexible where appropriate. The subcommittee will meet with Graybill and Douglas Smith (Public Works intern) about these issues.
3. Update on 116-124 N. Prince St. (N. Water St. side). The trees in the parking area will be covered by an easement providing maximal protection under city ordinances.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Next meeting - September 15, 2015, 7:30 PM.