2020 Goal: Adopt-Out/Plant 10,000 Trees
Current Count To-Date: 4,900 Trees

LEON VALLEY
DEEP ROOTS. BIG IDEAS.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEON VALLEY TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of the Leon Valley Tree Advisory Board (TAB) at 6:02 PM, on Monday, July 22, 2019, at Leon Valley Public Works (Employee Breakroom), 6429 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas.

I. Poll for Attendance and Determination of a Quorum.

- Staff Liaisons: David Dimaline (Present)
- TAB Forester: Mark Kroeze, Texas Forest Service (Absent)
- Members Present: Thomas Benavides, Denise Berger, Mary Key, Diana Sarfin, and Rich Sarfin
- Members Absent: Irene Baldridge, Melinda Dawson, and Amber Mouser

II. Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2019.

- Ms. Sarfin made a motion to approve the minutes from June 24, 2019, as written. Ms. Key seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

III. Update on Amending the Tree Preservation Ordinance to address the Removal of Oak Wilt Trees and Provide Assistance with Fungicide Treatment.

- Mr. Dimaline provided 2 excerpts from Chapters 6 and 13 of the city's ordinance that address removal of trees affected by oak wilt.

-- Chapter 6 HEALTH AND SANITATION, ARTICLE 6.03 WEEDS, HIGH GRASS AND DEBRIS, Sec 6.03.002 Prohibited conditions; penalty.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, or his agent, owning, renting or having under his control any lot or premises, whether vacant or improved, within the city, to permit the same to be covered, in whole or in part, with any weeds, high grass, down timber or brush, old logs, decaying vegetable matter, trash or trash piles, junk, scrap, open garbage, filth or debris whatsoever, and same are hereby declared to be public nuisances, a hazard and menace to public health, and fire hazards.

-- Chapter 13 TREE PRESERVATION, ARTICLE 13.02 TREE PRESERVATION ORDINANCE, Sec. 13.02.008 Oak Wilt Prevention.

(d) <u>Disposal of oak trees.</u>

(1) <u>Red oaks.</u>

(A) Removal or disposal of red oaks with oak wilt disease must be taken more seriously because they can form highly contagious fungal mats. Their quick and proper disposal is important and necessary to prevent other oaks from being exposed or infected.

(B) If a red oak tree is diagnosed with oak wilt, the diseased red oak tree shall be promptly removed and disposed as recommended by the state forest service.

(2) <u>Other oaks.</u> Other oaks do not require special disposal (i.e., live oaks and white oaks).

- Topics/concerns discussed in amending and/or adding to the current city ordinance in order to assist homeowners and to contain the spread of oak wilt is as follows:
  - -- Limitations of Sections 6.03.002 and 13.02.008.
  - -- Private property rights.
  - -- Cost sharing between the city and homeowner to remove and replace diseased trees.
  - -- Cost sharing between the city and homeowner to treat oak trees with fungicide to prevent oak wilt.
  - -- Utilizing the city's tree mitigation and replacement fund to support cost sharing programs.
  - -- Immediate removal of diseased red oaks with the city paying 100% of the cost.
  - -- Adding the best pruning times for oaks (July 1 to January 31) to reduce the risk of infection.

- Mr. Dimaline will consult with the city attorney to determine if Sections 6.03.002 and 13.02.008 listed above can be amended to address the topics/concerns discussed by the TAB.

IV. Future Agenda Items.

A. Create more Opportunities for Tree Education.

- The next opportunity for tree education will be during Leon Valley's Arbor Day which will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Mr. Sarfin & Ms. Sarfin will begin working on the poster contest for Arbor Day.

B. Create more Opportunities for Tree Planting.

- Mr. Dimaline will contact Tiger Sanitation to see if they can begin planting the trees that they are donating by November 3, 2019.

V. Adjourn.

- Ms. Sarfin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. Mr. Sarfin seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.
- The next meeting of the TAB is scheduled for Monday, August 26, 2019, at 6:00 PM, at Leon Valley Public Works (Employee Breakroom), 6429 Evers Road, Leon Valley, Texas.

Denise Berger

Chairperson