

MAPLEWOOD VILLAGE TREE & LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 10, 2018

The Maplewood Village Tree & Landscape Committee (TLC) met in the Loft of the Lodge on Wednesday, October 10th, 2018 with both co-chairs Leo Beebout (Building 3) and Carl Pickett (Building 5) present as well as the following committee members: Dale Moser (Building 1); Lowell Morgan (Building 3); Butch Snyder (Building 4); Bob Mann (Building 3); Susan Ramsay (Building 6) and Charles Wright (Building 5).

Leo called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. and welcomed everyone, expressing thanks for work completed by one and all – “sometimes together and sometimes individually, it’s all appreciated.”

Secretary Wright said he had been notified that the TLC again this month had received generous donations. Thank you notes have been sent to Cyril “Cy” and Judy Kuennen (Building 1); Roger and Shirley Kjellberg (Building 4); Bob and Trudy Mann (Building 3); and Leo and Gloria Beebout (Building 3).

Leo then asked that the committee pause for a moment of silence in respect for our departed friend Tom Pilcher. Tom remains in spirit with us each time we meet and in every task we complete.

Leo then referred to a list of fourteen items we have recently completed, are currently working on or hope to accomplish in the near future. He said that our TLC account currently stands at \$666.00, adding that we typically end the year with around \$300. Asked if that included money for the TLC raised by the recent Tailgate Party, Leo said yes, and reminded us that we’ve spent \$1,400 from our account for trees; \$275 for a saw and \$78.62 for a battery-operated shrub trimmer.

Returning to his agenda for the meeting, Leo said tree trimming continues. He spoke about a problem caused by our river birch trees. Carl said that we have four river birch trees and they are some of the dirtiest trees he knows. They drop tiny limbs that collect in our clusters of mugo pines and are also a problem for our mowers. Carl believes these trees should be taken down. He said Ron Hays has agreed with him after having to clean up the twigs from our mugs. Carl said that last month he filled two large containers with twigs he picked up from around our river birches.

Regarding our ongoing concern with Mid-American Energy’s neglect of trees along our northern border, Leo said he called their office. He said he talked with a very pleasant lady, asking if she could get us some help with trees they’ve trimmed for us before, and perhaps remove these trees and replace them with something that won’t grow up into

the wires overhead. She replied that this didn't seem like an unreasonable request and said she would look into it. She checked the records and said it appears that Mid-America Energy has not responded to our earlier requests for attention. She wondered if she could try to get the trees cut off. Leo told her he couldn't make this decision for the Association without the Board's permission. Leo then asked her to give us some options. She told him that she will look into the matter and promised she'd get back to him. Leo told her our request would include a tree south of the driveway – which is one of our troublesome river birches. Bob Mann asked Carl if these were trees the TLC could take down. Carl said that if we could get Mid-American Energy to take down the front two by the street that would help us out.

Carl said there's maple tree in the boulevard on the exit side with a split limb which he said is getting worse and needs attention. He said that one limb should be taken off fairly soon before it causes a problem. Leo said that he will put it on our list for attention next Wednesday. Bob said we need to try to save our maple trees – as our village was named for them.

Carl noted that some of our burning bushes are turning, but not all which he remarked was unusual as they usually all turn at the same time. He said that once they start dropping their leaves, we can start trimming them down. Carl said he would like to trim them to about half of what they are now. Leo said that those who do the work should be in agreement about the trimming so that the resulting overall appearance is the same. There followed a prolonged discussion about the preferred height to trim our burning bushes. Bob then suggested that we pick a Wednesday morning when together we can trim just the burning bushes. Leo said we must wait until after a frost when their leaves drop. Carl suggested we use the gator when we do this trimming for we surely will have quite a load. There was a general agreement not to make this a job for Carl alone. Carl said he doesn't think the job will take long but appreciates the idea of a crew doing the work.

Regarding the mugo pines on the north side of the entrance to the village, Carl said they are taller than they need to be and should be trimmed. The mugos on the south side near the exit are not as high as those on the north side. Also the Juniper north of the Maintenance Shop should be trimmed.

The plaque for the Ginko tree which is a memorial to the late Tom Pilcher is now in place and just this morning mulch was placed around both this Ginko and the Ginko that Tom himself planted a few seasons ago.

Leo said we still have a few hostas to plant. He then asked Carl to talk about our new pole saw. We learned that Dale, Carl and Bob have all tried the new pole saw. Asked by Bob if the saw met Carl's expectations, Carl replied "yes, it reaches up a long ways." Apparently only two or three of the connecting sections were used in the trial today. It

was said that two people really are needed when all four sections are connected for use. Carl said he should probably wait until next spring to do any work with the pole saw due to a recent injury to his shoulder in a fall. Bob said he used the saw this morning to remove a dead tree limb near a window of new residents on the second floor of Building 5. Bob remarked that the more we use this saw, the more we'll get use to it and like it.

The Dogwood has now been removed from the nursery.

Leo said we need to talk about our upcoming TLC Brat Supper. Lowell said he is concerned about items for the auction. He asked, "What are we going to get?" He was told that Manager Carmichael is going to bake six loaves of homemade bread. Bob said our ladies are making stuff for the auction. Dale said the ladies make good things that are worth buying. Charles said he's not interested in doilies and crocheted toilet seat covers but will buy brownies, homemade cookies and pumpkin bread to freeze for the holidays.

Lowell said he will talk to Nancy Pilcher about what plates, napkins and utensils from the Lodge kitchen may be used. Lowell and Dale said they'd shop for the charcoal for the grill. There will be baskets for freewill offerings – one marked for the TLC and one marked for Garden renovation and repairs.

There was speculation about what kind of turnout to prepare for. Susan said the Tailgate Party was held the same night as a Farm Bureau Supper and still there we had a good response. Bob said there was an excellent turnout for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Maintenance Building and the supper at the Lodge afterwards. Lowell said we should plan for between 40-50 to attend. Wright said that he'd redo the poster promoting the event, removing the line about proceeds being used to purchase a stump grinder. He was asked to change the line to state there will be a free will offering to benefit both the TLC and repairs to our Garden area.

We agreed to meet at the Lodge at 3 p.m. on the day of the event to set up and prepare.

Copies of a page of rental rates from CRC Contractors Rental Company on Second Avenue in Des Moines were handed out. A stump grinder is available there for \$225 a day should we ever decide we need to use one. Leo said that he has done business with this company and recommends them. Susan asked if any of our committee members knew how to operate a stump grinder. Dale and Lowell said that they knew how.

Butch asked if the TLC would consider working occasionally in the garden area. Leo asked for a description of the work he had in mind. Butch said replacing timbers on one

side one week and replacing timbers on the other side another week. He said all the beds need to be redone and new fences put in place. He said it wouldn't cost much but he needs labor. Dale volunteered to work. Carl suggested some of our gardeners might be happy to help and should be recruited.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Wright, Secretary