

TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Meeting Date: May 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Acceptance and Dedication of a Liberty Tree Memorial from the Elm Research Institute

AGENDA INFORMATION

Agenda Location: Consent Agenda
Item Number: 6-F
Department: Administration/Public Services

Urban Forestry Commission
Beautification Committee
Greenways Commission
Town Square Steering Committee
Black Mountain Parks & Greenways Foundation

Contact: Marcy Onieal, Town Manager
Presenter: Marcy Onieal, Town Manager

BRIEF SUMMARY: The Elm Research Institute has undertaken a program with 5 goals:

- Provide a means for citizens to dedicate personal memorials
- Dedicate official memorials in 1000 American communities
- Celebrate "Liberty Tree" Day on August 14th as an Historic Event
- Educate youth and citizens about the history and patriotism behind the Liberty Tree Story
- "Re-elm" America by planting disease-resistant American Liberty Elms all across the country

The program will provide at no charge to the Town, one 14 ft. tall ceremonial Liberty Tree ready for planting, and a commemorative 20"x 12" cast bronze plaque. In return, the Town agrees to find a high profile location and hold a public dedication of the Liberty Tree ...America's first symbol of freedom.

The Liberty Tree Society has agreed to fund this Memorial through its national membership and is hopeful that local citizens and organizations will join the campaign to re-introduce the American Elm to the urban landscape. To date almost 500 Liberty Tree Memorials have been established including a number of cities and towns in North Carolina:

Asheboro- at the Fire Station

Cary – at the Town Hall campus

Charlotte- by the Old Courthouse, Alexander Street side

Claremont- the front entrance of City Park

Greensboro- Tannenbaum Park- first in the nation to establish a Memorial

Gastonia – at the James B. Garland Municipal Business Center
High Point - Festival Park North Overlook and Penn-Griffen School for the Arts
Raleigh - Optimist Pool

This program could provide an opportunity to enhance the work of the Urban Forestry Commission at no cost to the town and provides a source for potential donations to our parks, greenways or Town Square project.

MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION: *To accept donation of a Liberty Tree Memorial, to authorize the Town Manager to enter into agreement with the Elm Research Institute on behalf of the Town, and to charge the appropriate Town boards, committees, and commissions with establishing a permanent patriotic memorial and program for encouraging the reintroduction of the American Elm to the urban landscape in Black Mountain..*

FUNDING SOURCE: only cost to the Town is providing a permanent base for the commemorative plaque (General Fund, work to be provided in-house within existing budget)

ATTACHMENTS: Liberty Tree Memorial Brochure
Contract

MANAGER'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Adopt as presented.