

MARION TREE BOARD

October 10, 2018
Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Scott Hansen, Sunshine McDonald, Rodney Bluml, Tom Ryan,
Mark Sanderson

ABSENT: Marilyn Tormey, Mollie Lorenz

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Motion by Sanderson and seconded by Ryan to approve the September 12, 2018 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. The activity for the month involved Memorial Trees.

Public Input

None

2019 Tree Grant Program Applications

Cimprich advised Alliant Energy is reducing their grant award program by 75 percent. There will be one grant round with a deadline of November 1, and cover both the spring and fall plantings. The maximum amount to be awarded to each community will be \$5,000. Tree Board members were encouraged to write a letter to Alliant regarding this reduction. Marion will request the full amount allowed in their grant application with the major justification being the removal of Ash trees due to the EAB confirmation.

The MidAmerican Energy *Trees Please* program is also making changes; however, it is unknown at this time what the impact will be. We will continue to increase the amount requested for the grant application. The question was raised about city funds for trees, and Cimprich indicated there are monies budgeted in the Urban Forestry division. A copy of the Urban Forestry budget will be provided for Tree Board members.

Tree Board Member Re-appointments

Scott Hansen and Tom Ryan would like to be re-appointed to the Tree Board. Rodney Bluml and Mark Sanderson declined re-appointment and will be done at the end of their term (December 31, 2018).

Planting Project Updates

Cimprich shared it has been a good year for tree growth and establishment. Forty-seven trees purchased from Fleming for the Alliant Fall *Branching Out* grant were planted on October 2 with the assistance of seven volunteers. Planting began at 9 am and all the trees were planted by noon on both sides of 35th Street between 29th and 35th Avenues.

Planting from the *Trees for Kids* grant is scheduled for tomorrow.

Half of the trees for the street tree replacement program were obtained from Forrest Keeling and planted. The cost of shipping trees ordered from Keeling was originally quoted at \$725 for 50 trees, however, we were able to reduce it to \$300 by coordinating delivery with another customer. The remaining street tree replacements of trees we purchased from Fleming Nursery will also be completed. It was suggested Morrison Tree Farm in Dubuque may be a good source to purchase trees.

Tree Board Project Proposal

Cimprich encouraged the Tree Board be involved in a project which may include mulching or planting trees. Members can pick the date and what they would like to accomplish. It was suggested early evening October 18 would be a good date. Cimprich will get back to board members with further information.

Receive and File

None

Other Action or Discussion Items

Bluml asked about the trees on Boyson Road planted by Skogman and was advised nothing has been done about the situation yet. Hansen suggested each tree planted be inspected with recommendations about removal.

Staff Report

Cimprich stated service work had been done on the chipper which included moving the beacon light. He is reviewing equipment needs as part of the upcoming budget process. There were five Memorial Trees planted with three left to be planted. As a result of recent wind and storms there has been many broken branches and split trees which needed to be cleaned up. Trees at Butterfield Park have been mulched in an effort to improve tree health as the soil in that park is wet and heavy with clay and to prevent mowing and trimming damage. The MidAmerican *Trees Please* grant report was completed.

Adjournment

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Sanderson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

Rodney Bluml, Secretary