

MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES

June 10, 2015, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Mark Sanderson, Marilyn Tormey, Pam Munro, Sunshine McDonald

ABSENT: Eddie Begley, John Hager

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Brandon Sherbaum

Hansen gave an update on Ed Begley saying that he was still at a rehab facility and will be transferred to a nursing home in the near future.

Minutes

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Tormey to approve the May 13, 2015, Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Current Budget

The current balance is \$6,635.50. The invoice from Pecks for the spring street tree planting for \$937.50 was paid. A donation for a memorial tree with plaque was received in the amount of \$250.

Public Input

None.

Hager arrived at 7:10.

176 10th Street Right of Way Tree Removal Request

Cimprich recapped the request by homeowner Brandon Sherbaum to remove a tree in the ROW next to his driveway. Sherbaum would like to remove the current 12' driveway and replace it with a 24' wide driveway in 2016. The right of way tree roots are within inches of the current driveway. Concrete contractors are not providing bids for Sherbaum's project because they cannot guarantee the work due to the close proximity of the tree. Staff asked if the driveway could be expanded in the other direction. The Building Department recommended expanding the driveway in the direction of the tree, rather than towards the neighboring property. Carolan estimates the removal costs to be between \$1,200 and \$1,500, based on previous work done by local contractors for the city. Carolan was originally in favor of sharing the cost of tree removal. Munro is in favor of approving the removal after Sherbaum obtains permits for the driveway and felt a 50/50 cost share appropriate. Sanderson stated that the winter driveway heaving is not caused by the tree and is caused by the winter ground freeze.

Moved by Hager and seconded by Sanderson to approve 50/50 cost share of the removal of the right of way tree at 176 10th Street subject to the property owner

obtaining permits for the 2016 construction season and planting a replacement tree at property owner expense. McDonald has reservations about splitting the cost and the precedent it may be setting. Munro said each case can be reviewed individually and feels this tree is creating an issue for using the driveway. Hansen stated the tree is healthy. Roll call: Yeas: Munro; Nays: Hansen, Sanderson, Hager, McDonald, Tormey. Motion failed.

Moved by Hager and seconded by Sanderson to approve removal of the right of way tree at 176 10th Street subject to the property owner obtaining permits for the 2016 construction season; removal of and planting a replacement tree would be 100 percent property owner expense. Roll call: Yeas: Hansen, Sanderson, Hager, Munro, McDonald, Tormey; Nays: None. Motion carried.

Sustainable Urban Forestry Assistance and Training

The next training is June 25 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thomas Park. This will include additional tree identification training, risk tree assessment, forest pests, and tree inventory. Training will be indoors and outdoors.

Significant Ash Tree Treatments

Cimprich solicited bids for injection treatment of significant ash trees in City parks. Bids were received from Tru-Green Commercial (Cedar Rapids) \$11,797.50, Tree Savers (Bettendorf) \$12,705.00, and JLS Green Solutions (Cedar Rapids) \$12,796.50. There is \$10,000 budgeted for the treatments, but Carolan stated there are other funding sources available to cover the difference. Hansen asked if the trees have been identified for treatment. Cimprich said yes. Staff recommend the low bid from Tru-Green Commercial (Cedar Rapids) in the amount of \$11,797.50 for the treatment of significant ash trees in City parks. Tru-Green has also stated the quoted prices are locked in for 2015 and 2016.

Other

Munro asked about the replacement trees for the property at 1850 10th Street (Bill Beach request). At the previous meeting the Board moved for property owners to work with Cimprich. Munro said that Beach and her have selected some trees that are around \$235 per tree. Carolan stated that typically the Board spends \$150 per tree. Munro said she is frustrated that the project took down many trees that are over 100 years old. Carolan said with this being a City improvement, the Board is coming in the back door and to grant the replacement of four trees in the amount of \$600 on private property is fair.

Alliant Energy Branching Out Grant Fall Application

An application has been submitted to Alliant Energy for the Branching Out Grant for a fall planting project in the amount of \$5,250. If awarded, the project will fund trees for the next phase of trees along Tower Terrace Road from 3rd Street to the Alburnett Road roundabout.

Faulkes Heritage Woods Restoration Project Plan

Carolan and Cimprich met with Rich Patterson to discuss a plan for Faulkes Heritage Woods. This will be more of a management plan rather than a restoration plan. There are a lot of maples and invasive species growing and there needs to be some new trees planted. There is \$2,000 in the FY2015-16 budget to develop this plan.

Munro left at 8:10

1155 Mitchell Drive Private Tree

Cimprich wanted to notify the Board of a complaint received about a private tree in the front yard of 1155 Mitchell Drive. The house is vacant and there are concerns about the tree being a possible hazard. Cimprich said the tree has bolts in it, but it looks good. Cimprich will try to get in contact with homeowner.

Receive and File

None.

Board Discussion Time

None.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Maintenance Facility.

Moved by Sanderson seconded by Tormey to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.

John Hager, Secretary