

MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES

March 11, 2015, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Mark Sanderson, Pam Munro, John Hager, Sunshine McDonald

ABSENT: Eddie Begley

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Greg Wildebour, MidAmerican Energy

Greg Wildebour with MidAmerican Energy presented the Trees Please Grant award to the Tree Board in the amount of \$1,000. Hansen indicated the funds would be used for the street tree replacement program in residential areas. Board members thanked Wildebour and MidAmerican Energy for the award and for having the program available.

Minutes

Moved by Hansen and seconded by Munro to approve the February 11, 2015, Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Current Budget

The current balance is \$823.00. There has been no activity during the past month.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Election of Officers

Moved by Munro and seconded by McDonald to elect Hansen as the Tree Board Chairperson. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Hansen and seconded by Munro to elect Sanderson as the Tree Board Vice Chairperson. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Munro to elect Hager as the Tree Board Secretary. All in favor, motion carried.

New Member Discussion

Applications from John Hansen and Marilyn Tormey were reviewed by the Board. Moved by Munro and seconded by Hansen to recommend to the Mayor the appointment of John Hansen, and Marilyn Tormey as an alternate, to the Tree Board. The Board discussed the qualifications of each applicant. All in favor, motion carried.

Urban Forestry Awards Luncheon and Workshop

The reservation deadline is March 24 for the awards luncheon and workshop on April 9 in Johnston. The fee for the workshop is \$10 and will be reimbursed by the department. Munro and Hager will be attending both events.

Sustainable Urban Forestry Assistance and Training

The next session is Thursday, March 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Lowe Park. Topics to be covered are tree identification, tree technology, and community outreach. Carolan will email more information next week.

Significant Ash Tree Inventory Update

McDonald will provide the collected inventory information later this week via email. The diameter and number of trees to treat for the EAB is needed to obtain bids. The treatment should be applied in May so bids should be returned to be approved at the April meeting. Hanson asked when the best time for application; Carolan replied it is when the leaf foliage is starting and indicated that finalizing the inventory is becoming time sensitive.

2015 Tower Terrace Tree Planting

Cimprich is working on plans for the tree planting project along Tower Terrace Road between 10th Street and 3rd Street. He has developed two concepts that includes both sides of the sidewalks on the north and south side of the street and the median areas. The plans include a variety of hardwoods, evergreens, perennials, and annuals. Rough drafts of the two plans were shown to the Board. Cimprich is working with Ever-Green Landscape and Fleming Nursery for available species and will present a list at the next meeting. The total project will include around 75 plantings with about 30 of them being planted by Marion High School students for the One Day in May volunteer service project on May 11. The Alliant Energy Branching Out Grant in the amount of \$5,250 will be used for this project.

Right of Way Tree Issues

2450 12th Avenue: Discussion continued from February meeting. Property owner Josh Williams requested the maple tree in the right of way be removed. Cimprich noted the tree has scarring, minor rotting, and large limbs that grow towards the house. Hansen and Hager both looked at the tree and agreed the tree has issues. Hansen stated the property did receive a new tree in 2014 as part of the Street Tree Replacement project. Trimming the tree would result in a very uneven appearance. Moved by Munro and seconded by Sanderson to remove the maple tree at 2450 12th Avenue. All in favor, motion carried.

176 Tenth Street: Request continued from February meeting. Property owner Brandon Scherbaum indicated to Cimprich that he does want to remove and replace the driveway, but contractors are not bidding the job because of the tree. Sanderson stated the maple tree is healthy and if the removal is allowed he should be required to replant two trees somewhere. Hanson is not in favor of removing the tree that is over 100 years old. Carolan said that the removal could be allowed with stipulations such as replanting trees. Munro and Hager would like to see the project plans at the next meeting. Cimprich will get the timeline for the project and ask the Mr. Scherbaum to attend a future meeting.

Other

Hager asked about planting trees in the right of ways and utility placements. Carolan replied that the Board sent a recommendation to the City Council to establish guidelines for new construction areas to allow for dedicated landscaping and utility easements. Council has not taken any formal action on this request.

Carolan indicated that the Tree Board does not have current by-laws. Examples of by-laws for other City boards will be emailed to members. This will be an agenda item at the next Board meeting.

Board Discussion Time

Munro requested replacement trees for the ones that were damaged at her property during the sidewalk project last summer and will present a letter of request at a future meeting.

Hager asked if the large trunks of trees that are removed are repurposed. Cimprich said that Breeden disposes of the wood per their contract.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

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

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

John Hager, Secretary