

## MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES

May 13, 2015, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Mark Sanderson, John Hager, Marilyn Tormey, Sunshine McDonald

ABSENT: Eddie Begley, Pam Munro

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: None

### Minutes

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Tormey to approve the April 8, 2015, Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

### Current Budget

The current balance is \$7,323. A donation for a memorial tree with plaque was received in the amount of \$250.

### Public Input

None.

### 176 10<sup>th</sup> Street Right of Way Tree Removal Request

Homeowner Brandon Sherbaum was not in attendance. Hager said the tree still looks healthy. Sherbaum will present his garage project plans at a future meeting.

### 1850 10<sup>th</sup> Street Request for Replacement Trees

Last month the Board received and filed a request from Bill Beach at 1850 10<sup>th</sup> Street for replacement trees. Beach requested four 3" trees including maples. During the 2014 Sidewalk Project trees were removed at this location. Engineering's agreement with the property owners included replacing the driveway, but not the trees that were removed. Typically the department plants 1½" to 2" trees and staff is not recommending 3" trees. Hager asked why 3" trees aren't planted. Carolan said usually the smaller trees are a little better quality and are more sustainable. Sanderson stated that the trees would be the same size in five years and the smaller sized trees are a little cheaper. Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen directing staff work with property owners regarding species and to provide up to four 1½" to 2" trees to be planted by property owner. All in favor, motion carried.

### Tree Board By-Laws

Carolan presented draft by-laws based on discussion at the April Board meeting. Moved by Sanderson and seconded by McDonald to approve and adopt the Tree Board By-Laws as presented. Hager asked where the liability falls if the Board says a tree is healthy but a limb falls and causes damage. Hansen stated the combined expertise of Board members and staff provides a confident ruling when looking at a

tree. Carolan stated the decisions made by the Board are generally pro-active and prevent the possibility of liability. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Sustainable Urban Forestry Assistance and Training

The next training is May 20 from 9 a.m. to Noon at Lowe Park. This will begin with additional tree identification training inside and then move outside to identify trees on the property and to plant 10 trees. Hager asked if there was a landscaping plan for Lowe Park. Cimprich said the Lowe Park Master Plan does not include landscaping.

#### Significant Ash Tree Inventory and Treatment Plan

Cimprich has found three companies who offer injection treatments for ash trees. All are close in price, from \$5 to \$10 per inch, but the price will depend on the actual numbers to be treated. The companies are JLS Green Solutions (Cedar Rapids), Tru-Green (Cedar Rapids), and Tree Savers (Bettendorf). Cimprich has identified 74 trees in City parks as significant and is recommending to be treated. Ash trees in the right-of-ways will be considered in a future year. Hager asked who will be responsible for determining significant ash trees in the right-of-ways. Carolan replied would like to see it be a joint effort between staff and the Board. Tormey asked about the best time to apply the treatment. Cimprich said it would be when the trees are leafing out from April to June. Moved by Hager and seconded by Sanderson directing staff to move forward with obtaining bids and securing injection treatment for significant ash trees in the City parks. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Tower Terrace Tree Planting

There were 40 trees planted with the help of 21 One Day in May student volunteers on May 11. The day was chilly and windy, but there wasn't any rain. Alliant Energy representatives, Mayor Bouska, Trees Forever representatives and City staff were present for the photo opportunity. The shade trees were placed in the north and south right-of-way areas.

Cimprich will be putting together a request for the fall Branching Out grant request to continue the tree plantings to Alburnett Road. The Board will be able to review the tree planting next phase. The median area is still being developed for landscaping.

#### Arbor Day

Two elm trees were planted at the new Marion Police Department Headquarters facility on the north side of the property for Arbor Day on April 24. Despite the day being cold and rainy, there was a good turnout.

#### Receive and File

None.

#### Other

Carolan noted that the Alliant Branching Out Grant application for the fall cycle is due at the end of May. The application will be submitted for another 40 trees to continue the tree planting on Tower Terrace Road to the Alburnett Road round-a-bout. Moved by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson directing staff to submit an application for the Alliant Branching Out Grant to fund trees for the Phase II Tower Terrace Road project.

Hager asked about the Arborist certification. Cimprich indicated that he is studying for the exam and can schedule at any time.

Cimprich relayed information about the Backyard Forest Conference being held May 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wickiup Hill Learning Center. The class is for landowners to manage their forest and to maximize its health and benefits. The cost is \$15.

Board Discussion Time

Hansen commented that some right-of-way trees were aggressively trimmed along Boyson Road. Cimprich has looked at the trees and said they will be fine but need more time.

Tormey commented that the honey locust trees in the right-of-way on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in front of the new Kum & Go have a lot of growth starting on the trunk.

Next Meeting/Adjournment

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Maintenance Facility.

Moved by Tormey seconded by Sanderson to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.

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John Hager, Secretary