

MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES

August 12, 2015, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

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

ABSENT: Eddie Begley, Sunshine McDonald, Pam Munro

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Tormey to approve the July 9, 2015, Tree Board minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Current Budget

The current balance is \$6,457.00. The grant funding from Alliant Energy in the amount of \$5,250 was received in July.

Public Input

None.

Alliant Energy Branching Out Grant

Cimprich reported that the City was awarded the Branching Out Grant from Alliant Energy in the amount of \$5,250. This will fund 40 shade trees to be planted in the north and south right of way areas. A landscaping plan will be developed for the median area after the turn lanes for the side streets are completed.

2015 Fall Street Tree Replacement Planting

Hansen reported that the fall planting will include around 50 trees that will come from Fleming Nursery, Peck's Green Thumb Nursery, and Ever-Green Landscape Nursery. Letters to homeowners will go out 30 days prior to planting, which will be mid-September.

In the spring, 5 sycamore trees were planted as a part of the street tree replacement program. Hansen noted the trees look great.

Sustainable Urban Forestry Assistance and Training

The last training session was held at Oak Shade Cemetery where an inventory was completed of the entire area. The next training session is in late October to review pruning.

Tree inventory continues; the four Trimble units on loan to the City are available to check out and Cimprich will provide a mapped area to inventory. Sanderson and Tormey have been assisting with this and Cimprich is working on parks, City owned property, and new development. Hager asked about reaching out to colleges or other groups. Cimprich indicated that a person doing inventory needs to be able to identify

different varieties of trees. Hansen asked about the cost of a Trimble unit. Carolan said they are around \$800 and is planning to budget for one in the future. Cimprich said the inventory is 5 to 10 percent complete. We will submit what is done on September 15, but continue afterwards until the inventory is completed.

A Kids for Trees grant will be submitted to fund 20 trees to be planted near a school and involving students or a club from Linn-Mar or Marion. Laura Wagner with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources notified Cimprich about this grant. The application is due September 1.

Receive and File

None.

Other

None.

Board Discussion Time

Hansen said the trees planted at 996 13th Street in the right of way area are planted too close together, and at 1680 8th Avenue there is a clump of soft maples growing within five feet of a nice sycamore. It appears the homeowners planted the trees or allowed them to grow at both properties. Cimprich will look at both and work with the homeowners in an effort to maintain good public relations.

Sanderson noted that there are two volunteer walnut trees growing in a flower bed on 10th Street in the 1600 block.

Sanderson left at 7:45.

Hager noticed that some of the street trees on 10th Street look stressed. Cimprich confirmed that he is keeping an eye on those trees.

Tormey asked if the bushes or shrubs around the MARION sign at the northwest corner of Hwy 13 and Hwy 151 could be trimmed.

Tormey will not be at the September meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 9, 2015, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Maintenance Facility.

John Hager, Secretary