

## **MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

September 9, 2015, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

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

ABSENT: Marilyn Tormey, Eddie Begley

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Nancy Mackie

### Minutes

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen to approve the August 12, 2015, Tree Board minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

### Current Budget

The current balance is \$6,219.50. Invoices for one memorial tree and two memorial tree plaques were paid in the amount of \$ 237.50 during August.

### Public Input

Nancy Mackie, 1304 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Marion, informed the Board and staff of her concerns about the large walnut tree in the right of way at her neighbor's residence at 1197 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The branches of the tree extend completely over the street and drop walnuts in her yard. She feels the walnuts are a hazard and could cause a person walking on the sidewalk to fall, they are dangerous to a bicyclist, and they are damaging to vehicle tires. She stated limbs are hitting the garbage trucks. Mackie says the City street sweeper used to come frequently to clear the walnuts, but not anymore. Hager asked if staff have verified the tree is in the right of way. Cimprich replied it is in the right of way and it was marked at the end of July for trimming to be completed by Breeden. Munro asked what resolution Mackie is seeking. Mackie replied for the tree to be trimmed and acknowledges the tree is not dead and should not be removed. On September 8, an Alliant employee stopped to look at the limbs that are touching electrical wires and to assess the situation, but he did not perform any work. Carolan stated there are ten trimming work orders in the system before the tree at 1197 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Hager asked if the neighbor knows of Mackie's concerns and that the tree will be trimmed. Cimprich has talked with the neighbor. Hansen explained there is a City policy requiring property owners to clean streets of droppings and debris from trees on their property. Cimprich indicated there have been no complaints from other neighbors. Carolan said that the work order has been issued for the trimming to be completed. The department will ask Breeden if the trimming can be moved up on the schedule and will ask Public Services to have a street sweeper go through the neighborhood. Hansen commented that all trees have their problems, some more than others, and presently walnut trees are not approved for planting in the right of way.

#### Alliant Energy Branching Out Grant

On September 17 and 18, 40 trees funded by the Alliant Energy Branching Out grant will be planted along Tower Terrace Road to continue the previous planting. This phase will extend closer to the roundabout but will not reach Alburnett Road. Hager asked about the planting plan. Cimprich relayed that the trees will be planted in the north and south right of way at 40' intervals. McDonald asked if help was needed. Cimprich will email approximate planting times when they are determined.

#### 2015 Fall Street Tree Replacement Planting

Over 40 properties will have a street tree planted in the right of way this fall. Letters and care guides will be mailed to property owners this week. Locates will be requested after the letters are received. Planting will take place late September or early October.

#### Sustainable Urban Forestry Training and Assistance

The "Trees for Kids" grant was applied for. The project will include a group of students in Linn Mar's Ag Science department. Cimprich will be working with Barb Lemmer to coordinate the planting along 10<sup>th</sup> Street near the high school administrative building if the grant is received. The amount would be for \$1,500 to fund 10 to 12 trees and would need to be completed by mid-October.

The next training session is October 15 at Lowe Park from 12:30 to 3:30 and will cover "corrective pruning, maintenance, and maintenance schedules for newly planted trees."

#### Staff Arborist Certification

Cimprich has passed the arborist test and is now a certified arborist. Hansen congratulated him and said this has been a long time coming for the City. The Board has worked hard to get to this point.

#### Faulkes Heritage Woods Work Day

A work day is scheduled for Saturday, September 12 at Faulkes Heritage Woods beginning at 8 a.m. Work to be completed includes clearing volunteer maples and Japanese barberry. Rich Patterson has been working behind the scenes to coordinate this.

#### Receive and File

None.

#### Other

Hager noticed that the next Board meeting is scheduled for October 14 and the following day is the training at Lowe. He suggested having the Board meeting follow the training at Lowe Park. Moved by Munro and seconded by Hager to change the regular October Board meeting to October 15 at 3:30 at Lowe Park Arts and Environmental Center. All in favor, motion carried.

### Board Discussion Time

Hansen asked for an update on 996 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 1680 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Cimprich is working with the homeowners resolve the tree issues.

Sanderson asked about the volunteer walnut trees growing in a flower bed on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Cimprich said he looked at the trees and they will be trimmed.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8 a.m. The next meeting will be held Thursday, October 15, 2015, 3:30 p.m. at the Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center.

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John Hager, Secretary