

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING
September 20, 2016
Department of Public Infrastructure Conference Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chairman Todd Holschbach, Glenn Pfeffer, Nic Levendusky

Staff Present: Dan Koski, Chad Scheinoha, Alvin Rehme

Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman T. Holschbach.

Annual election of officers

Tabled until commission members are re-appointed.

Approval of the minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2016 meeting was made by N. Levendusky and seconded by G. Pfeffer. The motion carried unanimously.

Public input session

D. Koski told the commission that the issue of private property trees affecting other private property was discussed at a Public Safety Committee meeting in July. The ordinance reads that we can strongly suggest action but not enforce it. D. Koski is researching what other municipalities do, and options will be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee.

Philip Beckman, 1118 Lincoln Blvd., said that the Lincoln Boulevard area going into the zoo needs to be reforested.

N. Levendusky asked if a map could be made showing the locations of the 81 4-D trees.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

- The tree crew worked at a minimum of 134 locations.
- The June 10th storm created at least 5 weeks of forestry work. Approximately 200 trees came down, and damage estimates were approximately \$120,000. Silver Creek Park was hit the hardest (approximately 60 trees). None of the 4-D trees came down in the storm.
- The City contracted with Asplundh to remove 15 park trees and with Dave's Tree Service to remove 18 trees for Engineering Department projects.
- There were three after-hours callouts.
- Twenty six loads of firewood were sold.
- A total of 37 trees were planted.
- There were 20 removal permits and 7 planting permits.

Urban forestry grant opportunities

Due to the storm, no grants have been applied for yet this year, but there are some opportunities to apply for grants this fall or winter. C. Scheinoha said that it is possible that ATC grant money could be used to plant trees on Lincoln Blvd.

Update on the forestry fund

The balance of the forestry fund is \$3,566.34. A saw was purchased with money from the fund.

Changes to the lists of suggested street trees

C. Scheinoha stated that they are looking to reduce the number of maple trees on the list. The tree canopy is not diversified enough. This issue was tabled to next meeting.

Recap of Arbor Day 2016

Everything seemed to work well at City Hall on Arbor Day. C. Scheinoha said that he didn't get any interest from LTC or the UW Manitowoc, etc. in having students attend the Arbor Day Celebration.

Proposed assessments for tree maintenance since October 2015

C. Scheinoha said that there are no proposed assessments for this year. The June 10th storm put the crew behind, so letters were sent, but not followed up on yet.

Letter from citizen regarding terrace trees at 1413 S 20th St.

The trees are mostly healthy and do not fall into the 4-D category, but they are raising the sidewalk. The property owner is welcome to apply for a removal permit to take them down himself. The Engineering Department has limited funds in their budget to remove trees that are affecting sidewalks. This year, they were able to remove 18 trees (out of hundreds), and they chose the worst ones.

Firewood fees

C. Scheinoha passed out sheets with information regarding the sale of firewood. A. Rehme said that not all people on the list want "gnarly" wood. There are "staging areas" for wood at the City's gravel pit on Hecker Road and the Parks Shop on Fleetwood Drive. T. Holschbach suggested that we keep the price the same for firewood for this year, but review the price annually.

Donated tree procedures / Memorial Tree Program

C. Scheinoha reviewed the Memorial Tree Program with the commission members. Since we are now hiring local contractors to plant the trees due to limited staff, the revenue is no longer covering our expenses. A. Rehme said that the trees are generally 2 to 2 ½" diameter trees, depending on what is in stock. Since we stopped advertising after 2011, sales of memorial trees have decreased to about 25% of the original numbers. The bronze package would be eliminated and fees on the gold and silver packages would increase approximately \$130. T. Holschbach made a motion to increase the fees so that the City is at least breaking even. G. Pfeffer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Scheinoha said that sometimes people donate trees that they want to get rid of. We will accept those on a case-by-case basis if we have the time to plant them, etc.

Policy to replace terrace tree if one is removed

Currently, the tree removal policy states that you may be required to plant a tree, but we currently do not require anyone to do so (nor does the City replace any trees that staff cuts down). The commission decided not to make a motion, but recommends charging a \$50 fee for street tree removal permits with the fee being waived for property owners who plant a new tree in the terrace area.

DPI/Forestry budget and Municipal Tree Commission letter of support

T. Holschbach will make some revisions to the letter.

Adjournment

A motion was made by N. Levendusky to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by G. Pfeffer. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.