

**MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**February 9, 2016**  
**Department of Public Infrastructure Conference Room**

**MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Todd Holschbach, Mike Penckofer, , Ald. Al Schema, Nic Levendusky

Staff Present: Chad Scheinoha, Alvin Rehme

**Call Meeting to Order**

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

**Approval of the Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2015 meeting was made by M. Penckofer and seconded by N. Levendusky. The motion carried unanimously.

**Report on Tree Maintenance Since Last Meeting**

The tree crew worked at 51 locations which included removal of 27 terrace trees and three park trees. At the zoo, a contractor took out four trees in the Wolf Exhibit. There were two callouts – one on the weekend and one on a weekday at about 10:30 p.m., where a semi hit a tree, and the tree got stuck between the cab and trailer. The tree was not pruned to the correct clearance (14' above the street). According to Chad Scheinoha, these types of occurrences may occur more often as there is currently not enough staff to have a preventive maintenance plan in place. Two loads of firewood were delivered, but there are a few loads behind the shop and at the pit that can be delivered when time permits. Sometimes the homeowner elects to keep the wood, and at this time, there is currently no charge for that. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Five trees were planted since the last meeting.

**Urban forestry grant opportunities**

Two tree planting grants were received last year, and the idea is to plant 37 trees at Emma Radandt Park in 2016 pending approval of the revised plan for the park by the Park and Recreation Committee in February. The staff also applied for American Transmission Corporation and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grants in 2016 and were denied. The plan had been to remove and/or replace terrace trees. The WDNR goals are geared more toward planting, canopy diversity, and working with private groups.

**Update on the forestry fund**

The balance of the forestry fund is \$2,819.

**Discussion & possible action on a minimum charge for forestry work performed on private properties with ordinance violations**

C. Scheinoha reviewed the labor and equipment costs with the commission. He recommended a charge similar to what is done for noxious weed removal, which is about double the actual costs in order for it to be a punitive-type charge. The hope is that the property owner will take care of the issue themselves or hire a private contractor to complete the work, so that forestry staff can focus on forestry work not related to private property. T. Holschbach said that if labor resources were not limited, this could be viewed as revenue producing task. For noxious weed violations, property owners are charged \$300 for up to one hour of work, whether the crew is there 15 minutes or the entire hour. Additional hours would be done on a cost-recovery basis. N. Levendusky made a motion to implement a \$300 charge for up to one hour of work for forestry work performed on private properties with additional hours to be charged on a cost-

recovery basis. T. Holschbach seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. C. Scheinoha will draft something for the Park and Recreation Committee similar to the noxious weed ordinance.

**Discussion & possible action on changes to the lists of suggested street trees**

Tabled to next meeting.

**Discussion regarding plans for Arbor Day 2016**

Some locations under consideration were Emma Radandt Park, Silveridge Park, Halverson Park, the Community Garden on S 14<sup>th</sup> St. and City Hall. The Commission agreed on the City Hall site. T. Holschbach suggested expanding the event to local college, high school or junior high students that have an interest in the natural science programs. C. Scheinoha will gather some information to present regarding local forestry facts, and A. Rehme will order seedlings to give out to children attending. M. Penckofer suggested that you may be able to find a group interested in reforestation that would plant the seedlings at a park. A possible location for next year's Arbor Day event would be along the Mariners Trail where the new Spirit of the River statue will be placed.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by M. Penckofer to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by N. Levendusky. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

smsr