

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.
1st Floor Hearing Room, City Hall, 900 Quay St.

Commissioners Present: Alderman Lee Kummer, Al Schema

Staff Present: Dan Koski, Chad Scheinoha, Alvin Rehme

Others: Barry Pankratz

Call meeting to order

Ald. Kummer called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Annual election of officers

Postponed to September meeting.

Approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting

Postponed to September meeting.

Public input session

None.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

- 91 locations since November 2019
 - 33 trees removed at Evergreen Cemetery
 - 18 trees (many ash) removed at Lincoln Park Zoo
- 61 locations pruned
- 0 callouts
- 10 loads of firewood
- 1 removal permit granted
- 93 requests for trimming remain
- 137 requests for removals remain

- The Engineering Division put out a Request for Bids for the City's sidewalk program to remove 30 trees and 40 stumps. The lowest bidder was from Green Lake with a bid of \$45,440.
- Dave's Tree Service is doing the northwest quadrant cutting for MPU. This year's quadrant is the largest.
- The Community Development Department is developing a Downtown Tree Program where they will be planting 30 to 40 trees along 8th St., etc. Some of the trees are lindens.
- About 60 emerald ash borer infected street and park trees will be removed this spring. Over 19 of them will be removed by Chris Lewis Tree Surgery for \$9,450. The Parks Division currently has 16 infected ash trees scheduled for removal before May 1st.

Urban forestry grant opportunities

Staff applied for a 1000 Friends of Wisconsin grant which is intended for lakeshore communities and would be a 50/50 cost share.

Arbor Day 2020

Discussion was held regarding holding the event at the library and playing *The Lorax* video instead of reading the book as the video seemed to capture the children's attention better. It was suggested to ask library staff if they had any Arbor Day ideas as they do a lot of programming for children. The Izaak Walton League will again be donating two trees. We may be able to coordinate the tree planting with Downtown Tree Program.

A. Rehme mentioned that he would be meeting with Bill from the DNR regarding a release of parasitic wasps at Henry Schuette Park for the purposes of attacking EAB larvae. The wasps will die off if they do not have any EAB larvae to eat.

Update on the forestry fund

As of today, the fund balance is \$3,575.28. After taking into account 2019 revenues (which will be transferred to the fund after auditors complete their work in spring) and proposed 2020 expenditures, the balance will be \$6627.46. The fund is used to purchase new equipment and trees and sometimes to use as a cash match for grant applications.

Revisions to the Tree Maintenance & Removal Policy

Tabled to September. A meeting needs to be set up with staff to discuss tree maintenance and removal related to sidewalks.

Tree ordinance violations over the street & sidewalk

Tabled to September. This issue is regarding the height clearance.

Addition of the Tree Planting Plan into the Street Tree Planting Policy

Tabled to September. Staff is working on a rough draft.

Revision of the Street Tree Planting Permit to a Street Tree Planting/Treatment Permit

Tabled to September. This is related to record keeping for people who treat terrace trees for EAB. We don't want to cut down trees people are treating, and we want to be sure that people are treating them correctly.

2019 Tree City USA application

We applied for a 2019 Tree City USA designation as well as a growth award. The Tree City USA designation is a requirement for many forestry grants.

Adjournment

A. Schema made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 p.m. Ald. Kummer seconded the motion.

SMSR