

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 6:00 PM

Hall of Fame Room at City Hall, 381 E Main, Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Jay Schotzko, John Archer, Dave Moyer, Kevin Short, Kendall McBroom and Randy Nelson

Absent & Excused: Tom Selsor, Robert Kardasz

Guests: None

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Schotzko

- 1) **Communications:** 1) *Erdahl* informed the committee that Eric Seidel (McKay's Nursery) would be in town Friday November 14 to tag the arboretum trees. 2) *Nelson* discussed the fact that McKay's replaced trees that were not equivalent to the ones that had died. *Moyer* stated that the trees had not been maintained and could invalidate the warranty. Trees have now been mulched.
- 2) **Forestry Reports:** *Erdahl* can now run the financial report from the Tree Donation Fund Acct which will be included monthly. *Moyer* had questions on tree planting and what nursery the city used to purchase the trees. (Kankakee Nursery in IL)
- 3) **Arboretum Update:** Discussion arose on why there is so much wood chips at Racetrack Park. Other contractors are dumping there and people are not using. This mulch was used to bark the Crabapple Arboretum and there is disease in the mulch. maybe the mulch should be turned to make it more useable. There are still several trees that need mulching in the Arboretum.
Moyer is working on forming a group for a clean up in the Arboretum in the spring of 2015. *Moyer* also questioned who is responsible for the Arboretum; Streets, Parks or both? Who oversees the work? He would like, once the Arboretum is cleaned up, for it to be maintained.
Crabapple Brochure: *Archer* questioned some of the wording in the second paragraph under the "Choosing the Right Crabapple". The paragraph was re-written and will be submitted to McKay's for correction. There are also some questions on the last line in the third paragraph under "Why Crabapples?". The box for the brochures was attached to the sign; however, it was destroyed when the sign was moved. *McBroom* has volunteered to build a new box with help from the Senior Center. The box and brochure will be ready and displayed by early spring. There also needs to be a more permanent solution to identifying the trees other than the tags McKay put on them. At one time the Street Department had some wooden posts and it was suggested to install these with the tree name somehow affixed to the post permanently.
- 4) **Sub-Committee Report on Meeting/Solar Kiln:** *McBroom* reported that the kiln has been painted a bright green and that he is working on developing wooden signs for the FFA Alumni, Senior Center and Street Department. The wood that is being used for the signs is ash from trees that were removed in Stoughton. The kiln was loaded with wood around the beginning of October and seems to be working well. *Nelson* printed out some graphs and explained what the information meant in regards to the drying process. The wood expected to be dried and ready to move out of the kiln shortly. The wood currently drying in the kiln is cherry and cedar. After removal the wood will be stored in the barn at Racetrack Park for future use.
- 5) **Forestry Report Discussion – Tracking Work Load:** The committee discussed what they felt was a better way to track the information after the inventory is completely updated. *Short* volunteered to work on entering the data (on his winter break in mid-December) from past years that will allow for

more accurate number reporting. The line in the report on inquiries will be removed as it is confusing the rest of the information as they should be entered into the inventory when the forester has decided the outcome after he has physically inspected the tree. Also discussed was the fact that when other crews do trimming to make sure to document well and get the information into the computer because this job is done without the forester and his computer being on site.

Moyer questioned how the city develops the tree budget and do they expect a certain level of work to be completed in order to keep on track with the work that needs to be done.

The expectation is that in January of 2015 the reporting will be on track.

6) **Approval of minutes from October 8, 2014 Meeting:** Motion by Moyer, seconded by Short to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

7) **Future Agenda Items:** Crabapple Arboretum Brochure, Tree Inventory

Motion by Moyer seconded by Schotzko to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted 11/13/14, Vickie Erdahl - Staff