

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6:00 PM

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

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

Absent & Excused: Tom Selsor, Dave Moyer and Robert Kardasz

Guests: None

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

- 1) **Communications:** 1) *McBroom* informed the committee that the Senior Center has paid the \$200 deposit to the Syttende Mai Committee for the soda booth (supplied by Pepsi) that will be at the Street Department for the wood carving event during the festival. 2) *Nelson* reported on the solar kiln by sharing print outs of the reading from the kiln. 20 board feet of lumber were donated to Jerry Wendt at the High School for the students to make cutting boards and hot pads. *Nelson* stated that help is needed to unload and the load the kiln as the boards inside are ready to be used or stored. *Archer* suggested that an inventory sheet be kept on the boards to see how much goes to whom and what the wood is used for. Keith Kvalheim at the Senior Center will make another holder for the outdoor thermometer on the kiln to place in a different location to obtain more accurate readings. 3) *Erdahl* mentioned that the Public Works Committee had several ordinances on the agenda regarding trees. *Schotzko* stated that he had been asking questions about sub-divisions and park row trees and that the Street Department is to make contact with the homeowners if trees are not planted and if the trees don't get planted the Street Department will plant a tree(s) and the homeowners will be charged.
- 2) **Forestry Reports:** Several members of the committee asked questions regarding the high number of trees that were trimmed. Weather was a factor which allowed the Street Department to do more trimming and the areas targeted were where branches are interfering with work and the street trucks were getting damaged. both park row and some private trees were trimmed. Questions also arose regarding the 2015 budget amounts. *Erdahl* will verify the amounts for accuracy as the budget was not posted yet on the city system. The committee wondered if monies for tree injections could be moved to use elsewhere as it will not take the budgeted amount (if correct) to do the injecting this year because the equipment is already purchased and streets will only have to purchase the product.
- 3) **Forestry Report Discussion – Tracking Work Load:** *Erdahl* explained to the committee how this report originated and the numbers actually reflected the tree complaint log which was based more on calls from concerned residents and the street crew when they were out and about. Since a new inventory was done in 2013 these logs will be used to go back in and update the inventory. The arborist started in the latter part of summer (with a new laptop) to update records when out in the field and also when inquiries were submitted. Reports for information will be run from the inventory as to track the progress of meeting the goals of the inventory. However, tree status can change for many reasons so the complaint log will still remain in place as another tool. The forestry report, as we work on updating, format probably will change. Several members of the committee felt that, if there was a way, the City should consider hiring an intern every couple of years go out and reevaluate the trees to keep the inventory as updated as possible. At February's meeting the committee will bring ideas for a systematic way to prioritize the work according to what the inventory stated for the tree year work plan was. The committee does realize that the city budget is tight and the crew small but would like to figure out how to get as much done as possible with those restraints.
- 4) **Crabapple Brochure:** *Eric Seidel* from McKay's sent an updated brochure for review. *Archer* found a couple more errors. in the first paragraph line three Industrial Drive needs to start with capital letters and also confirm with McKay's how many of the brochures will be printed for us as the

committee would like them ready to put out this spring. The Senior Center is working on a display box to be installed in the spring. Moyer will also be contacted for any updates on the arboretum as he has been working with Mr. Seidel. Committee members will check the nursery for tagging and to see about the wooden posts at the street department (if still usable) for permanent marking.

- 5) **Approval of minutes from November 12, 2014 Meeting:** Motion by Short, seconded by Archer to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- 6) **Future Agenda Items:** Arbor Day/Syttende Mai, Crabapple Arboretum Brochure, Tree Inventory

Motion by Archer seconded by Schotzko to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted 1/15/15, Vickie Erdahl - Staff