

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 4:30 PM

Giles Dow Room, City Hall, 381 E Main St,

**Members Present:** Sid Boersma, Kendall McBroom, Dave Moyer, and Randy Nelson

**Absent & Excused:** Robert Kardasz, Kevin Short and John Archer

**Staff:** Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

**Guests:** None

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM by Moyer

- 1) **Communications:** *Nelson* presented a flier from Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept asking if we would like to participate in the 2015-2016 Gypsy Moth Suppression Cost-Share Program. (*City does not meet the criteria listed for that level of spraying*). *Nelson* also presented an article from the International Society of Arborists Arborist News for continuing education - "Cost of Not Maintaining the Urban Forest". *Nelson* also updated the committee that the oak leaf was denied to be the largest red oak leaf by Guinness, however, it is the largest red oak leaf for surface area.
- 2) **Forestry Reports:** *Moyer* had questions of why the street department crew had to finish grinding out the stumps if the project was bid out and requested to see what the perimeters and specifics of the contract were and also include the budgets for Tree Planting and Removal. *Moyer* questioned whether the committee should review the contracts for tree planting, tree removal and stump removal. Also requested were the budget amounts for each category i.e. planting, removing, stumps and injections. **Direct staff to furnish the information for the October meeting.**
- 3) **Crabapple Arboretum Update:** No current update. There will be a working day through the friends of Heggstad Arboretum on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from noon – 3:00 pm to work on re-mulching the trees and other maintenance if possible. Committee also will check in to make sure no permits are needed to remove trees and *Moyer's* Landscaping Company will furnish the necessary equipment. Cummins Filtration will be asked if they have any volunteers available as the company has an environmental team that does a lot of community projects. *McBroom* provided some pictures of signage that perhaps would work for the arboretum.
- 4) **Information for Website:** Committee members presented some websites to be added to the current list. A quick link from the city's main web page for committees will be added to bring them into the forestry link. On the street department page the drop down menus will be re-arranged to bring residents into the site quicker. WSTO will be asked to link the "Tree Recycle" video highlighting the solar kiln to the forestry site. Also much needed updating will be done to edited links with errors.
- 5) **Tree Planting Lists:** The committee would like to eliminate and add trees from Sec 78-611 – classification of plant species that contractors can use for landscaping points to avoid a losing all trees if a disease happens and also to encourage diversity. The commission would like to have only 5 % of any one genus. Since the table is within an ordinance changes would need to go through the proper channels. The Tree Commission would need to send the changes to the Public Works Committee for review. A list was compiled of trees from the current inventory however the list is incomplete because trees from trails, the cemetery and some right-of-ways were missed when doing the inventory. This list shows the genus, species and common name along with the count. The percents will be calculated and some species will be removed from the list in hopes that other varieties are planted.

- 6) **Solar Kiln Plan for Funds & Distribution:** Committee will review the drafted proposal that was never finished by the sub-committee for the solar kiln and make suggestions to complete the document to have set guidelines in place for the usage, care and monies involved. There will be a meeting with Tree Commission members, Keith Kvalheim and Cindy McGlynn Senior Center Director to discuss the agreement involving the solar kiln as the Senior Center is involved also.
  
- 7) **Approval of minutes from August 19, 2015 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by McBroom to approve the minutes. Carried 3-0.
  
- 8) **Tree City USA Points:** After some discussion the committee is going to pursue the following categories from the Arbor Day Foundation to achieve our goals – A6 – Publicity (5 points) and B-10 – Citizen Training Program (6 points) for the work and project surrounding the Heggestad Crabapple Arboretum.
  
- 9) **Article for Hub:** Moyer has been in discussions with the Hub to publish monthly articles involving the Urban Forestry. The first article will be regarding the Heggestad Arboretum. There will be no fees charged for the article but there will be a size limitation. The committee will be thinking of other suggestions or subjects to be presented and develop a list. The committee will also be responsible for writing the articles.
  
- 10) **Future Agenda Items:** Tree Planting List, Information for/on Website, Grants, Hub article, Tree City USA points, Solar Kiln **NOTE:** Next meeting will be held at Bjoin Park.

Motion by McBroom seconded by Boersma to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted 9/14/15,  
Vickie Erdahl - Staff