

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 4:30 PM

Ed Overland Room, City Hall, 381 E Main St, Stoughton

Members Present: Sid Boersma, Kendall McBroom (via phone), Kevin Short, Dave Moyer, and Randy Nelson

Absent & Excused: Robert Kardasz

Staff: Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Guests:

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM by Moyer

- 1) **Communications:** 1) *Boersma* had questions concerning the Arnett Properties on N Page St and tree planting or lack of trees being planted and wants the situation looked into. He stated that the developer passed the planting onto the homeowners and had them sign an agreement agreeing to such planting. *Nelson* stated that he had seen some type of agreement, however, he did not see anything regarding tree planting. 2) *Nelson* stated that the O'Reilly Auto Parts store is going to be planting a tree and also donating a tree to be planted elsewhere as there is limited space at the address. Ord Sec 10-2 Street Tree Installation allows a \$ 350.00 deposit be given to the Street Department to have them plant trees or to hold for developers or homeowners when trees can't be planted when give the occupancy permit. 3) *Nelson & Short* will be attending the 2016 Annual Wisconsin Arborist Association conference in Green Bay next week. 4) *Nelson* informed the committee that *Bill Livik* a reporter for the Hub newspaper will be stopping by the street department Thursday, February 11, 2016 to take pictures of the solar kiln for an article to be printed in the Hub. 5) *Nelson* stated that Asselson's hardware has agreed to take some of the boards from the solar kiln and sell to the public, and 6) *Nelson* informed the committee that he has been working with homeowners on N Van Buren St and Clyde St regarding the public & private tree removals for the spring road construction.
- 2) **Forestry Reports:** *Moyer* asked where the report was on the wood from the kiln and storage to track the board feet and sales. *Nelson* had calculated but did not bring to the meeting. This report will be added to the current monthly forestry report.
- 3) **Triangle Vision Ordinance:** The committee after discussing the ordinance would like some clarification on a section 78-718 –Fencing standards (3) (a) Height of fencing regulated (1) the last line of the paragraph regarding driveways. This would affect how trees are planted due to the language used in the ordinance. This item will be on the March agenda and Mike Stacey will be asked to attend the meeting to discuss and clarify. *Nelson* will provide and reference pictures of actual addresses that show issues that the committee is concerned with.
- 4) **Arbor Day Ideas:** *Moyer* provided the committee with an Arbor Day plan that included the Heggestad Arboretum including two work days, an event at the arboretum that includes the fourth graders from Stoughton schools receiving tree seedlings, tour of the arboretum and tree planting to celebrate Arbor Day (4-29-16). *Moyer* will be contacting the schools to discuss their participation. The work days are Friday, March 25 (10 A – 2 PM) and Friday, April 22 (1 – 3:30 P).
- 5) **Update on Planting Lists/Sec 78-611:** *Nelson* has collected data from other communities and has found trees that could be included to revise the planting lists for points and also street trees. Currently tree selection is quite limited due to demand from ash trees being removed. *Short* has offered to help organize the information and present to the committee at the next meeting.

6) **Approval of minutes from December 9, 2015 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by Short to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

7) **Urban Forest Products Presentation:** *Nelson* explained that the discussion started when he approached the Mayor regarding new members which she explained that there is a process for the people who submitted interest and hopefully by March's meeting the people will be in place. *Mayor Olson* questioned why the urgency – *Nelson* stated that the committee needed a quorum in order to vote on the Wisconsin Urban Woods Partnership. *Mayor Olson* stated that the item did not need to be voted on through the commission and that the Street Superintendent & *Nelson* could decide. *Street Superintendent Manthe* read the materials and gave *Nelson* permission to proceed with the membership which happened shortly before the meeting and the item had not been removed from the agenda.

At the meeting *Moyer* started the discussion stating that he had some questions regarding how the membership worked – what was involved and the benefits to the City if in the partnership. Other members state that they thought it was a great idea to partner and be involved with recycling as much wood as possible.

Moyer felt that the way this issue was handled made the Tree Commission ineffective. *Moyer* also stated other procedures aren't followed and a lot of what the committee is trying to do takes an extreme amount of time which is very frustrating for the members who donate their time.

8) **Future Agenda Items:** Triangle Vision Ordinance 78-718, Planting List Update, Street Tree Installation /Occupancy Permit

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Short to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Respectfully submitted 2/15/16, Vickie Erdahl - Staff