

Public Works Committee
Tuesday, September 20, 2016 @ 6:00 PM
Fire Department Conference Room – 401 E Main St.

Members Present: Alderpersons Tom Majewski, Sid Boersma, Pat O'Connor, Kathleen Johnson and Mayor Donna Olson

Absent/Excused:

Absent:

Staff: Director of Public Works Brett Hebert and Vickie Erdahl

Guests: Residents of Meadow Drive– John Neal, Tom Christian, Brad Eneix, Carol & Martin Clarke, Ted Tobie, Jean & Rick Kupp and Arlene Hanson

Call to Order: *Majewski* called the meeting to order

1) **Communications:** *Hebert* reported:

- Olson Toon was awarded the bid for the fall 2016 tree planting – *Majewski* asked if bags would be considered for future plantings to protect the investment
- Request for Proposal for 2016 fall tree removal is in progress and will be sent to the Tree Commission for review in October then onto Public Works
- Stoughton Utilities was approached regarding tree replacements when trees removed due to overhead utilities. *Kardasz* stated that other utilities are also involved and suggested taking the issue to the Utilities Board. *Majewski* requested this be placed on the next agenda
- New Parks Maintenance Supervisor started September 12 – Patrick Groom
- There was significant storm damage from the storm on 8-19-16. Crews were called in and worked into the evening to clean up hazardous situations. A special brush pick up has been scheduled for the week of September 26-30.

Boersma reported out from the Tree Commission concerning tree damage in the street construction areas and who is responsible to cover costs as there are multiple homeowners with complaints. *Hebert* stated he spoke with the contractor and there was a lack of communication with the construction crews and the city. The contractor said they notified the city that they had to move the protection. Yet, no representatives from the city had any knowledge of the contractor needing to move the barriers. Orange fences were put up to protect the trees being left in the construction sites – *Majewski* suggested using a plywood box for more protection in future job sites.

2) **Activity Reports:** Reported out only on the street opening permits and yard waste permits & activity.

3) **Eastwood Pond Update:** *Hebert* presented the study from Aquatic Biologists, Inc. which gave a description of the pond and surrounding area. *Hebert* made short & long term care suggestions. *Hebert* would like to treat the pond in the early spring of 2017 and would like to look into certifying the Parks Maintenance Supervisor so he could pass the test which would allow him apply the product in order to save on the cost of application.

Short term plan for the pond: 1) Cut willows and cottonwood trees, 2) remove cattails, 3) maintain buffer zones, 4) enforce grass going into the streets/gutter by educating the public about the effects when the grass/leaves go down the stormwater drains and 5) treat the pond with an approved algicide.

Long term plan for the pond: 1) vacuum/dredge pond to remove silt to maintain its depth and

Majewski suggested looking into abandoning the pond and have it re-engineered as all options should be reviewed. Geese are an issue as they cause a lot of damage. *John Neal* stated residents were allowed to run the geese off and a permit (from the Federal Government) was obtained for a roundup program in which the geese would be captured and removed. The geese, unfortunately, moved on before this could happen. The residents have put up a fence and used colored string to deter the geese which helps short term.

Other suggestions: Diffuser installed, holding funds from 2016 to combine with 2017 funds to vacuum the pond correctly for a better results after it was attempted in 2015.

Boersma would like to staff to check on costs to dredge the pond for a more long term solution.

Neal thanked Brett for all his time, effort and hard work and also stated that aesthetics are important for a short term goal.

Motion by O'Connor, seconded by Boersma to direct staff to follow the Director Hebert's recommendation and to pursue long term solutions and costs involved. Carried 5-0 (with Mayor voting yes).

- 4) **Middleton Prairie Project Information:** *Hebert* researched for information on prairie project in Middleton and provided the members with the development plan for that site from the management company, Adaptive Restoration LLC. The Middleton Project appears to have multiple partnerships and also received a grant. *Majewski* would like to pursue this issue and has asked staff to research companies who may be able to start a prairie project and also manage the program. A member suggested contacting Sustainable Stoughton to partner with the city. This will be placed on the October agenda.

- 5) **Parks Boundaries:** *Hebert* provided city park boundaries to define park areas, city open spaces and public lands for future maintenance and development. *Majewski* was concerned, specifically, with the wood lot next to Lowell Park on Milwaukee St due to its condition and hazardous trees not being maintained. The lot is not part of the park, but is city property. The end of Chicago St where wood was dumped needs to be cleaned up and no more dumping should be allowed.

Majewski is looking for areas to enhance by developing a prairie and contracting with a company to manage the area. Areas suggested were – S Franklin St (near city parking lot) or new park in Nordic Ridge.

- 6) **Emerald Ash Borer Update:** *Hebert* stated the Request for Proposal (RFP) has been drafted and will be reviewed by the Tree Commission at the October meeting. *Majewski* stated that the plan should be longer than three years – the city should wait to see what the condition of trees are and not remove until dead. *Boersma* said the Tree Comm. was inquiring on how to handle private property hazardous trees as some of the language used in multiple ordinances should be clarified.

Committee directed staff to send the ordinances to the Risk Manager Gillingham to assess whether the city attorney should review the language for legal reasons.

- 7) **Brush Collection Proposed Program / Ordinance Changes:** *Hebert* proposed the following changes to the brush collection months by still having four collections a year but cancelling the November pick up and adding a July pick up. *New schedule: April, May, July & October.*

Also proposed was implementing a 72 hour restriction for brush being left on a park row. Currently the city has no enforcement for brush unless it is placed in the street. This change

would allow the city to enforce the removal of brush from the curb when left out for long periods.

Motion by O'Connor, seconded by Johnson to recommend to Common Council to approve the language changes to Ordinance 62-2 (Dumping in parkrow prohibited) and Ordinance 50-5(h) (Littering prohibited). Motion carried 4-1 (with Mayor voting yes and Boersma voting No).

- 8) **Downtown Snow Removal Program / Ordinance Changes:** *Hebert* proposed changes in Ordinance 64-13(a)(b) (Snow & Ice Removal) to a 24 hour time constraint for snow removal in the downtown corridor only. Section c was added to define the downtown corridor.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Johnson to recommend to Common Council to approve the language changes to Ordinance 64-13(a)(b) and adding section (c) for Snow & Ice Removal. Motion carried 5-0 (with Mayor voting yes)

New Business:

- 9) **Approve August 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Motion by O'Conner seconded by Johnson to approve minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

- 10) **Future Agenda Items:** Utilities –Street Trees, Construction contract language, Terrace widths (regardless of category of street), Picnic Area by Mill Pond (plan for parking & seating areas), Mandt Park Lease

Moved by Boersma seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Motion carried 4-0. Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl Administrative Assistant – 9/21/16.