

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 4:30 PM

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

Members Present: Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Keith Kvalheim and Sid Boersma

Absent & Excused: Robert Kardasz & Kendall McBroom

Staff: Public Works Director Brett Hebert, Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl & Forester Randy Nelson

Guests:

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM by Boersma. Short joined @ 4:40

1) **Communications:**

- *Nelson & Short* attended the Tree Risk Assessment Qualifications class.
- The City of Stoughton Streets & Parks Department hosted and attended a class on “*Pest Management with Pollinators in Mind*” which was well attended.
- *Nelson* also attended the WAA Fall Conference
- *Boersma* stated that the new Veteran’s Memorial would be opening/dedicated on Friday, November 11th.
- *Nelson* is working with the Kettle Park West Developers on planting trees. *City Planning Director Scheel* is also checking construction areas for tree protection which is currently being discussed to develop language to protect the trees and hold the contractors liable after multiple issues with this year’s road construction.

2) **Forestry Reports:** The account has a low balance. The High School failed to pay a \$600 bill and with the change of teachers up at the school, we have no one to contact to get paid. There is a new Ag teacher at the school who as interest in the program and will be invited to attend a Tree Commission meeting. *Nelson* is currently working on calculating the board footage that is on hand – he thinks approximately 2700 sq. feet. *Asleson’s* continues to have a lot of interest in selling the boards for us. The committee would like to find other ways to sell the wood to bring up the account balance and be able to give a scholarship to a high school student who is going into forestry field.

3) **Update on Emerald Ash Borer (RFP):** *Hebert* reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for ash trees was completed and ready to send out. The format is the same as the Tree Removal Bid. The proposal plan includes two years for removal of park row trees and three years for parks and also includes tree plantings. The plantings have not been specified yet. A question was asked if the lowest bidder has to be accepted for work and the answer is no – however – there needs to be documentation as to why the bid was not selected.

The committee asked how the treated ash trees doing. *Nelson* stated that most were doing pretty good and that a different chemical was used this year. Some of the chemicals used to treat the borer were also killing off bugs that are beneficial to the trees.

4) **Construction Contracts:** *Nelson* stated that he had not received the information from the City of Milwaukee but it will be received for the November meeting. *Hebert* stated that the Public Works Committee was aware of the issue and had placed the item on their November agenda to be

addressed stating there needs to be better practices, communications with the contractors. The contractors doing the street construction were notified and failed to “do no harm” and the damage included private property trees and city park row trees. *Nelson* stated that proper tree plantings would help as multiple trees in the park row are not the correct trees for the size of the area.

- 5) **Approval of minutes from September 14, 2016 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by Kvalheim to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- 6) **East Main Street Trees:** *Alderson Majewski* asked why there were so few trees on the north side of E Main St but also didn't agree with the tree selections that the city arborist suggested be planted as this street is a main corridor into the city. Trees were removed during road construction that were too large for the park row and would have been severely damaged during the project. Appropriate trees will be planted during the week of October 17, 2016 in the park row and some larger trees on private property.

- 7) **Ord 10-2(d) for New Construction & New Development Plats:** This ordinance was changed earlier in the year but some of the language used was never brought back to the committee to be discussed and now has become an issue. The ordinance should allow the developer to plant their own trees after the city agrees with species and placement. Staff will work on the language changes to be reviewed by the Tree committee.

Multiple other issues were brought up regarding tree plantings (i.e. Utilities helping with replacement costs, discuss using bare root trees to help with costs and a site for wood storage).

- 8) **2016 Fall Tree Removal RFP:** *Hebert* stated the bids were due Monday, October 17, 2016 and would be taken to the Public Works meeting the next evening to be reviewed and awarded. The trees put on the bid list were field verified. The company who supports are current tree inventory will be changing their format. Staff is looking into a new vendor and perhaps redoing the inventory as it is very outdated. Currently there is not enough manpower to get on a routine schedule of maintenance. **The Tree Commission made a recommendation to outsource updating the inventory and suggested contacting Evan Slocum as he has worked with the city inventory in the past and has knowledge about different programs.**

- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Construction Contracts (tree protection language), EAB RFP, Ord 10-2(d) Language changes, Tree Inventory, Bare root trees for tree replacement planting and site to store wood logs

Motion by Kvalheim, seconded by McBroom to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted 10/27/16,
Vickie Erdahl - Staff