

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 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 and Kendall McBroom

Guest:

Staff: Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl & Forester Randy Nelson

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Short @ 4:35 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Nelson* 1) distributed a pamphlet “*Trees – Pay Us Back*”, 2) distributed an article on a book “*Hidden Life of Trees*” on plant neurobiology, and 3) (from Hebert) asked the committee their opinions regarding conifers in the terrace. There has been discussion, due to street construction, in an area where some trees are already planted. The committee feels the conifers would be okay in a terrace in certain instances, would offer more selection and these trees “work” during the winter when other trees are dormant. **This issue placed on April’s agenda**, 4) (from Hebert) is there a possibility of changing the day when the Tree Commission meets? – **This issue placed on April’s agenda.**
- *Boersma* 1) Dream Park Committee asked for volunteers and financial help – passing the word along if anyone was interested, 2) stated that *Panning Director Scheel*, should be invited to a tree commission meeting as *Scheel* has stated that trees do not have a “value” when it comes to stormwater

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Nelson* stated a lot of raising and trimming was being done throughout the city for the sidewalks and roads. *Nelson* also stated that he has been working with Stoughton Utilities and does not like their approach to trimming.

3) **Update on Ordinance 10-2 (d) – Terrace Trees:** *Hebert* has been working and revising the Ordinance. *Nelson* stated that this ordinance refers to the Parkrow Tree Planting & Selection Specifications which now needs to be update with changes. This document will be reviewed at the April meeting. Also the committee discussed the second to last paragraph – last line and suggested the following change. Currently the words read “five percent rule for any species”, committee suggested “the tree species overall percentage of the urban forest”.

4) **Update - Tree Protection Zone:** Committee felt the document read well and made no changes to the language.

5) **Discussion on Scholarship Program:** At the January 2017 meeting the committee had discussed and decided to make an independent grant available to the Stoughton High School in the amount of \$750.00. *Boersma* stated that he had a discussion with the City Attorney and there was some concern of the co-mingling of money and wanted the Finance Committee to approve as the funds are held in a city account.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Short to recommend to the Finance Committee to approve and allocate \$750.00 from the Tree Commission Donation account for a Stoughton High School Scholarship. Motion carried 4-0.

- 6) **Wood Storage:** Hebert is currently looking into some options and is waiting for more information that may come much later in the year.
- 7) **Ordinance 64-14:** Committee reviewed and felt no other changes were needed to the ordinance other than updating the title from Street to Terrace and Street Superintendent to Director of Public Works. The committee has forwarded this item to the Public Works Committee for review.
- 8) **Approval of minutes from January 11, 2017 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by Tangeman to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.
- 9) **Tree Removal Issue @ 708 Roby Rd:** Nelson stated that the developer removed a good tree after getting credit for his terrace trees. Public Works Director - Hebert tried to call the company, but did not receive a response. Hebert has given notice to the company to contact the city. A suggestion made by the committee was if the developer doesn't pay it shouldn't be put on the tax roll as then the homeowner would be burdened and was not part of the decision, but, instead no occupancy permit will be given until the tree is paid for or an agreement has been reached.
- 10) **Arbor Day Celebration & 4th Grade Trees:** Erdahl has ordered the trees and will confirm with the school district the number of 4th grade students at each school. School visits will be done as follows: Short & Kvalheim will be doing St Ann's School, Short - Kegonsa, Tangeman – Sandhill School. Fox Prairie School as yet to be assigned. The new Public Works Director and/or the Mayor will be asked.
- 11) **Future Agenda Items:** Parkrow Trees & Tree Planting Specifications, Utilities Door Tags, Conifer trees in terrace, Committee meeting day / time

Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Kvalheim to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 3/9/17,
Vickie Erdahl - Staff