

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 4:30 PM

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

Members Present: Dean Tangeman, Keith Kvalheim, Kendall McBroom and Sid Boersma

Absent & Excused: Robert Kardasz and Kevin Short

Guest: Brian Hoops – Stoughton Utilities

Staff: Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl & Forester Randy Nelson

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Tangeman @ 4:30 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Erdahl* - 1) Inquired Kvalheim & McBroom about accepting another three (3) year term on the Tree Commission Board – Kvalheim accepted and McBroom declined, 2) Fourth grade trees will be arriving on Wednesday, April 19th and Cummins will assist with packaging on Friday, April 21st – let Vickie know the count of the classes you are assigned to
- *Boersma* – 1) Discussed a letter written to council member *Engelberger* from a resident – Kay Weeden concerning her arbor vita trees on Henry & Ridge Sts 2) Thanked Randy for a great job at the Finance meeting for the scholarship fund
- *Nelson* stated the vote for the scholarship fund passed 3/1 at the Finance Meeting.

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Nelson* stated - 1) 320 trees are in the process of being planted for replacements for the Emerald Ash Borer tree removals, new developers an regular tree replacements, 2) door tags were given out for the change in the brush pick up schedule, 3) more wood has been delivered to Asleson's and the kiln was reloaded and 4) tree protection zones will be set up starting Monday, April 17th in the street construction zones.

3) **Scholarship Update:** *Nelson* stated that the scholarship fund issue is now set to go to the Council. The Tree Commission will be doing the prep & paperwork for the scholarship and will select the person. The goal is to be able to give a scholarship each year as long as the donation fund is sustainable. *Nelson* stated that Wisconsin Urban Wood is taking our program to four (4) other states to use as a model.

4) **Arbor Day Discussion & 4th Grade School Visits:** The cities Arbor Day event will be held on Friday, April 28 at 9:00am with a rain date of Friday, May 5th. Nine trees will be planted in Bjoin Park with 8 – 10 volunteers from Cummins. If there is enough time, the fruit tree nursery that Cummins planted in 2013 will be trimmed and mulched.

Short and Tangeman still need to confirm dates with the schools and Fox Prairie School still needs someone to make the visit.

Boersma stated that Sustainable Stoughton is doing an Arbor Day event at Division St Park on Saturday, April 29 at 10:30 am in which the area will be cleaned up including walking paths. Also, Sustainable Stoughton is holding an Earth Day event (date/time) at the Chorus restaurant with the “green” theme including demonstrations, bands and (Yetis) pizza.

- 5) **Tree Removal @ 708 Roby Rd:** *Nelson* reiterated a few facts to bring the committee up to date regarding this particular tree removal as follows:
- City gave credit to developer for tree terrace trees currently on the property to meet the new requirements
 - The builder cut down one of the city trees without making contact with the city
 - The Director of Public Works (DPW) contacted the builder
 - DPW felt that the act was done unintentionally and requested the builder pay another \$350.00 for each replacement tree; which is the amount the city has set for new home building
 - Tree value was @ approximately \$2,400

The committee feels there needs to be a precedent set so it doesn't continue to happen and resident feel they can just pay the cost to replace. Trees have value.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by McBroom to request that in this situation the responsible party pay one half of the tree value and take responsibility to remove the stump. Motion carried 4-0.

- 6) **Approval of minutes from March 8, 2017 Meeting:** **Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Boersma to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**
- 7) **Commission Meeting Day & Time:** The committee discussed moving the meetings from the second Wednesday of the month to the second Thursday of the month beginning with the May meeting and keeping the time as designated at 4:30 pm. All present were in agreement. *Erdahl* will check into meeting room availability.
- 8) **Urban Wood Membership:** *Nelson* received a letter for membership renewal with Wisconsin Urban Wood (WUW) which was discussed with the committee for approval. *Nelson* stated WUW has requested to use Stoughton's Tree Recycling Model to get four other states involved with tree/wood recycling. Currently the program has \$2,995.00.

Boersma stated that Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Patrick Groom, has requested the Senior Center build some Leopold benches be made for area parks.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Tangeman to allow Wisconsin Urban Wood to use Stoughton's model for tree recycling. Motion carried 4-0.

Terrace Trees – Conifers Discussion: *Nelson* discussed the conifer situation at Ridge & Henry in the construction zone where the trees are going to be removed due to triangle vision site on a corner and the Police Chief cited it was a safety issue. The Public Works committee wanted all trees to be removed by April 26, 2017. The City will find spots to transplant the trees. There is the same issue in a construction zone on Harrison St. The city will be replanting trees after construction is completed in the fall of 2017

The committee feels conifers are okay if planted in the right spot and will be looking into these trees further when reviewing the Terrace Tree / Tree Planting Specifications.

The Tree Commission made no further recommendations and acknowledge the Public Works decision.

Boersma left the meeting @ 5:30.

- 9) **Utilities – Door Hangers:** *Hoops* gave some history from the late 90's when the Tree Commission had approved the language on the door hanger. Stoughton Utilities has now taken "approved by the Stoughton Tree Commission" from the new door hangers per the current committee's request.

10) **Terrace Trees & Tree Planting Specifications:** *Tabled to May Meeting.*

11) **Future Agenda Items:** Parkrow Trees & Tree Planting Specifications, Tree Removal (708 Roby Rd), Scholarship and vote for Chair & Co-Chair

Motion by Kvalheim, seconded by McBroom to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 4/12/17,
Vickie Erdahl - Staff