

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Sept 9, 2010 at 5:30 PM

Giles Dow Room at City Hall, 381 E Main, Stoughton, WI

**Members Present:** Todd Fossum, Jay Schotzko, Kevin Short, Josh LaPointe, Randy Nelson, Craig Wood and Rick Gullickson

**Absent & Excused:** Dean Tangeman, Darren Marsh and Tim Carter

**Guests:** City Attorney, Matt Dregne and Residents, Dick & Dianne Anderson

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM by Fossum.

- 1) **Approval of minutes from August 12, 2010 meeting:** Motion by Schotzko, seconded by Short to approve minutes with corrections. Motion carried 4-0.
- 2) **Correspondence:** NONE
- 3) **Memory Garden @ Roby Road Park (north side):** This was referred to the Tree Commission from Parks & Recreation Director Tom Lynch as this area was created with donated funds from the Heggstad family through the Tree Commission.

City residents Dick & Dianne Anderson presented an idea to develop a Memory Garden here in Stoughton after seeing one when their son was in hospice care. A drawing of the area with pictures of the current paths, pictures of the type of bricks and pictures of a bricked path at the hospice center were passed around to give everyone a visual of the concept. The garden or walk would be done in phases and the thought was to be able to place a bench or gazebo in the area too. The Anderson's plan is to speak to some clubs, do some advertising, create a brochure and have a fund raiser to begin the process. The Tree Commission liked the idea and felt it would further enhance the look of the area with only a question concerning maintenance, - especially during the winter.

**This item was referred back to Parks & Recreation.**

*Agenda items 3 & 4 were switched around because the City Attorney, Matt Dregne was available to meet with the commission.*

- 4) **Review & Recommendations regarding the proposed amendments to Sec 64-14 – Trees:** *City Attorney, Matt Dregne, reviewed the current ordinance prior to the meeting. At the meeting, Mr. Dregne spoke about wording and liability issues for the City. Mr. Dregne recommended that the Tree Commission remove references regarding the public trees from the ordinance and develop a policy concerning the public trees with Street Superintendent, Karl Manthe, with specific guidelines for the crew to follow. The ordinance would still contain issues regarding the Tree Commission, permits, hazardous private trees and perhaps regulating practices on private trees for informational purposes. The City Attorney would like to review the new ordinance and policy before forwarding to Public Works to review. The revised ordinance and policy will be discussed at October's meeting. Mr. Dregne also reviewed the draft of the new tree licensing form and made minor changes.*
- 5) **I Tree Program:** After some discussion the committee felt that we should download the tree inventory into the I Tree Program (*Fossum is checking into someone who could assist with some hands on training*). However this program, because it is a database, would not be available to the public so needs to be discussed further. The committee feels that this information does not need to be available to the public and the I Tree program has such valuable information that can be utilized that is not available with the current program and to run each program would be time consuming. The I Tree program has no costs involved, but the Tree Inventory is costing the City, at this time, \$1,000.00 a year to be viewable and make some updates that *Erdahl* is unable to do because of the type of program it is.

- 6) **GRWC site:** *Carter* was unable to attend the meeting so status will be discussed in more detail at October's meeting.
- 7) **Fall Volunteer Day:** *Tangeman* was unable to attend the meeting. ***Erdahl will contact Tangeman to see if he wants to proceed or if we should have a volunteer day in the spring or fall of 2011.***
- 8) **Future Agenda Items:** I Tree Program, Review Tree Ordinance/Policy, Tree License form, GWRC site, Tree City USA project/points, Memory Garden Update

Motion by Short, seconded by Schotzko to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Vickie Erdahl - Staff Member

DRAFT