Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 14, 2019 @ 9:00 AM
Public Works Building, 2439 County Rd A, Stoughton

Members Present: Dean Tangeman, Mike Point, Kevin Short and Matt Bartlett

Absent & Excused: Mitch Bergeson

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and DPW Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Guest:

Call to order: Tangeman called to order @ 5:03 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *American Transmission Company* donated $740.00 to the Tree Commission.
- *Kemppainen* will be presenting at the WAA Winter Conference in Green Bay in February. The Urban Wood Program will be covering his costs.
- Member questioned the tree grate problem downtown

2) **September Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:

- Significant time was spent locating and marking sites for fall tree planting. This process always generates several phone calls with requests, rejections, questions…
- Tree protection fencing was removed from trees on South Monroe Street for construction.
- The Tree Commission held a sale to dispose of excess lumber from city trees. The proceeds were deposited into the Tree Commission Fund to further support the Wood Utilization Program. The amount of the wood sale was $ 1,468.50.
- Assisted with brush collection
- Started preparations for fall/winter tree trimming. John will be meeting with Tree Wiseman to discuss issues with the spring trimming in order to rectify before they start the fall trimming.
- Spent several hours working with the Senior Center woodshop to prepare lumber for future boardwalk installations. Many pieces of the ash lumber which was milled and dried for this project developed significant warping and sweeping that needs to be removed in order to use the boards.
- Accepted a position on the Species Advisory Group for the DNR Invasive Species Council. I will be assisting in the review process for determining new woody and ornamental plants being added to the states invasive species list.
- Assisted with plowing during one snowfall event in the month of October.
- Discovered that the resident at 1116 Furseth Road attempted to kill a terrace tree by drilling several holes in the stem and root flares and pouring an unknown substance in the holes. The Police Department is working with PW to deal with this situation. John stated that the homeowner has left for the winter and is trying to figure out how to make contact now. John has a file on this tree since the driveway was installed to document what all has taken place and should the tree die, then the homeowner will be responsible.

3) **Wood Sale Event:** Members of the committee were pleased with the sale and would like to have another event. When the wood was moved to the Public Works Building, some wood was discarded due issues such as warping, etc. Currently there is mostly ash and red maple. Ideas obtained from the sale was to have more live edge slabs available and have the sale take place at the cold storage building so weather wouldn't affect the sale. *Kemppainen* will discuss with Director Hebert to see if this would be possible.

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4) **Website Update:** *Kemppainen* stated that a meeting was held on 11/7/19 to discuss and review the site. After the meeting was concluded, Director Hebert, City Forester Kemppainen and the city's IT Department decided to end the contract with Mary-Carel Verden.

Derek Westby then created, with *Kemppainen* suppling the content to complete the site. The Tree Commission reviewed the site and suggested some websites to include from UW Extension. *Kemppainen* stated that the new site was mobile phone friendly.

5) **Discussion and possible action regarding the Hazardous Tree Ordinance:** *Kemppainen* stated that the current Ordinance in Chapter 58 (Public Nuisances) regarding Hazardous Trees is going to be repealed and a new Ordinance 58-12 created. A policy has been created to inspect trees on private property and still is in progress and currently being discussed by the Public Works Committee. ***Placed on December's agenda***.

6) **Discussion regarding the Landscape/Zoning Ordinance:** The committee would like to see this Ordinance simplified and not listed every tree. There are limited submissions which would allow the committee to review what the developer is planning for points and make suggestions to keep the urban forest diversified. A yearly review would be done on the breakdown of the urban forest to check for percentages of trees. *Bartlett* stated that this change would need to go to Public Works and the City Council as any changes to ordinances have to be handled in this manner. ***Placed on December's agenda.***

7) **Approval of minutes from October 5, 2019 Meeting**: **Motion by Short seconded by Tangeman to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**

8) **Discussion regarding the New World Oseberg Wagon Project:** The committee wants to support the *New World Oseberg Wagon Project". Kemppainen* stated that the sawyer was coming on Monday, November 18 to cut wood. At that time the wood needed for hubs would be separated for the project. Kemppanien stated there was swamp white oak logs which would work well. More information was needed on how to proceed – Bergeson was contacted to clarify, hopefully before Monday.

9) **Future Agenda Items:** Website Update, Landscape/Zoning Ordinance, DNR Grants – Tree Canopy Private Property, Hazardous Tree Ordinance, Downtown Tree Grates

Motion by Point seconded by Short to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Respectfully submitted 11/19/19, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

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