Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 9, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Public Works Building, 2439 County Rd A, Stoughton

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Dean Tangeman, Mike Point and Matt Bartlett

Absent & Excused: Kevin Short

Staff: John Kemppainen

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:05 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Bartlett* announced that he would be leaving the Tree Commission as he was not running for City Council this year.

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

- Tree pruning was conducted in Zone 2 of the city (between Main Street and Roby Road, and Page Street to Nygaard Street). Three hundred fifty-six (356) street trees were pruned this fall using our contractor (Tree Wise Men, LLC). In addition, in-house crews trimmed approximately 170 street trees. This program took up significant time in December.
- Ten (10) street trees were removed by in-house crews in December.
- Jim's Tree Service removed one hundred sixteen (116) ash trees at Racetrack Park along the western property line. These removals should be the conclusion of large scale ash tree removals in the city.
- Completed and submitted the Tree City USA application for 2019.
- Assisted with plowing during one snowfall event in the month of December.

3) **Discussion regarding the updated Hazardous Tree Ordinance:** *Bartlett* explained the process for the group. The first reading was 12/10/19 and the second reading will be 1/14/2020.

4) **Discussion regarding the Landscape/Zoning Ordinance:** *Bergeson* suggested that everyone review for next meeting. Goal is to promote and maintain diversity of the urban forest.

Future agenda item.

5) **Discussion on Tree Grates in the Downtown Area:** *Kemppainen* stated that some grates were corrected and will inspect remaining pits for work needed and schedule.

6) **Oseberg Wagon Update:** Lumber was transferred to non-profit group in December and more will be supplied in the year 2020. The Tree Commission will be given credit for project when completed.

7) **Approval of minutes from December 12, 2019 Meeting: Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Bartlett to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**

Point requested moving to approve the minutes to follow communications at this meeting and future meetings. Tangeman motioned, seconded by Bartlett (4-0).

DRAFT

8) **Discussion on DNR Grants:** 2020 grants are closed for the DNR urban forestry. Commission agrees to pursue grants for 2021 funding. Commission wants to pursue tree planting funds for private and public land.

Kemppainen will contact the DNR UF representative for information on 2021 grant projects. And disburse to the committee

9) **Discussion on Gravel Beds:** Commission discussed the potential for a gravel bed / nursery on the Public Works property.

10) **Discussion on Tree Pruning:** *Tangeman* stated that he saw work that was sub-par and provided feedback on quality. Cycle was discussed and Tangeman recommends on a longer cycle and trimming fewer trees per year.

11) **Future Agenda Items:** Hazardous Tree Ordinance Update, Downtown Tree Grates, Landscape Tree Ordinance and Committee Vacancies

Motion by Bergeson seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. Respectfully submitted 1/15/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

DRAFT