

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mike Point, Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Denise Duranczyk & Ed Meachin

Absent & Excused:

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen

Guest:

Call to order: Kemppainen called to order @ 6:04 PM

- **Communications:**
- *Duranczyk* introduced new members to one another
- *Duranczyk* informed members that ARPA funds may be available for Tree Commission in Sustainability – will discuss with *Director Hebert*.
- *Kemppainen* stated seven logs were milled last week for the wood utilization program
- *Kemppainen* informed members that the 2023 tree sale broke even; Forestry bought 20 of the 76 trees that were sold

- **NEW BUSINESS: Canopy Cover:**

Group discussed the possibility of restarting planting on private property when terrace space is unavailable. *Kemppainen* stated he doesn't think it is appropriate in most situations to spend city funds to plant on private property. Trees aren't often maintained well and become sidewalk obstructions.

Group agrees that planting on private property would need to be in very specific circumstances; ex: no or very small terrace

Communication/interaction with Public Works Committee:

Discussion on current Commission structure and how it can be changed/improved under current recommendation to Council. If group is reduced we could invite non-voting members to meetings for regular discussion. Committee will be reduced to five total members and group understands that not all members currently serving will be able to continue serving.

2024 Tree Commission Members:

Currently we have more members than the new ordinance will require. The group is happy with that and shrinking the group will happen once the new ordinance is complete. Once new ordinance is adopted, final decisions can be made on who will continue to serve.

Elect new TC Chair

New Chair is supposed to be elected in May and should stay in place until following May. Tangeman agrees to serve as chair until May.

Future Agenda Items:

Spring Plant Sale for 2024

ARPA Fund Discussion

New Chair Election in May 2024
FAA Arboretum

Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Respectfully submitted 12/18/23, Jen Wagner - Staff

DRAFT

Here is the thread that includes 250k in undefined ARPA funds for Sustainability.

Motion by Hirsch/Heili for the tentative allocation of (a) \$100,000 in ARPA funds for the City of Stoughton Sustainability Committee for green initiatives. Motion by Venegas/Heili to amend the motion to increase the tentative allocation to \$250,000. The motion to amend passed 7-2 with Caravello and Ligoeki voting against the amendment. The motion as amended passed 7-2 with Caravello and Ligoeki voting against the amended motion. Heili anticipated that more information on the green initiative recommendations from the Sustainability Committee would be available in 4th quarter 2023.