Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 12, 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 and John Kemppainen

Staff: DPW Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Guest:

Call to order: Tangeman called to order @ 5:07 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Tangeman* wanted to know if there was space for gravel beds on the Public Works Property – *future agenda item.*
- *Short* stated that the Dane County Tree Board has posted their application on the web for any 4th grade teachers to participate for Arbor Day 2020.

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

- Tree planting completed throughout the city. One hundred and one (101) trees were planted this fall.
- Significant time spent preparing for the upcoming tree-pruning project. Tree Wise Men, from Janesville, will be in town in December for 2 weeks to trim approximately 350 trees in Zone 2.
- Mark Lien milled several logs into lumber and slabs for the city. One load of wood is currently drying in the solar kiln already.
- Attended the first meeting with the WIDNR as part of the Species Advisory Group for Woody/Ornamental plants. More meetings will be forthcoming.
- Assisted with review and content development for the new Public Works website.
- Assisted with plowing during one snowfall event in the month of November.
- Agreed to be a speaker at the upcoming Wisconsin Arborist Association annual conference in Green Bay during the month of February. I will be speaking on wood utilization as part of a group presentation for the Wisconsin Urban Wood organization.

3) **Website Update:** *Erdahl* stated that the site was complete and just verifying that all links work. Committee requested address be sent to them to review the site – esp. Forestry Division page for any other suggestions.

4) **Discussion and possible action regarding the Hazardous Tree Ordinance:** *Bartlett* stated the repealed and recreated Ordinance 58-12 & 58-13 related to Hazard Trees and Noxious Weeds on Private Property went to the Council for the first reading. The conclusion was that they still do not want employees on private property unless there is an obvious issue that can be determined from the public property. Stoughton Utilities will be enforcing easement issues. Committee requested a copy of the updated Ordinance that Council received.

5) **Discussion regarding the Landscape/Zoning Ordinance:** The committee would like to see this ordinance simplified by stating what can't be used and the new criteria be ratio based on diversity. We need to find out what the current numbers are in the inventory by percentage (i.e. 10% species, 20% genius and 30% family) and find out if there are any invasive species on the current list and remove them.

6) **Discussion - New World Oseberg Wagon Project Update:** *Kemppainen* was unable to attend the meeting, so update tabled to January meeting.

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7) **<u>Approval of minutes from November 14, 2019 Meeting:</u> Motion by Short seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**

8) **<u>Discussion on Tree Grates in the Downtown Area:</u>** *Short* distributed pictures that he had taken of a specific tree and the grate issue he was concerned with. *Short* suggested that sections of the grates be removed or get rid of the grates entirely – but the question is "what to replace them with?"

   Recommendation by committee to remove sections of the grate that are interfering with the trunks and root flares.

9) **<u>Discussion on DNR Grants:</u>** After a short discussion, the committee agreed to bring ideas for the 50/50 grant to the January meeting. Suggestions already made – a Canopy Project (check Madison's), work along the River Trail and a water shed project. Someone would have to fill out the application, submit the forms(s) before the deadline (for the year 2021 to the DNR) and find out what/when the information would be needed for the Common Council during the budget process for approval.

10) **<u>Future Agenda Items:</u>** DNR Grants, Gravel Beds, Hazardous Tree Ordinance, Downtown Tree Grates, Tree Trimming Contract

Motion by Short seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted 12/19/19, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

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