Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 12, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Public Works Building, 2439 County Rd A, Stoughton

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Dean Tangeman and Mike Point

Absent & Excused: Matt Bartlett and Kevin Short

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Admin Asst. Vickie Erdahl

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:02 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Bergeson* suggested (due to virus) that the six-foot rule for meeting, questioned whether further meetings would be canceled and inquired if future meetings could be done remotely.

2) **Approval of minutes from February 13, 2020 Meeting: Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 3-0.**

3) **February Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:

- In-house crews trimmed trees when time allowed in Zone 3. This zone is scheduled to be completed in 2020 and crews made significant progress. Our trimming contractor will be starting during the second week of March as well.
- Assisted with plowing during multiple snow events in the month of February.
- I attended the Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA) annual conference in Green Bay February 17-19. Additionally, I was a speaker on the topic of Urban Wood Utilization. The talk was well received and I have tentatively been asked to give an expanded version of that presentation at the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry conference later this year in Louisville, KY. I will provide details regarding this opportunity as they become more solid.
- Public Works staff and directors from the City of Monona and the City of Edgerton came to visit and get a tour of our wood utilization efforts after hearing my presentation in Green Bay. Both cities are very interested in urban wood utilization and are looking for assistance getting their programs off the ground.
- I attended a meeting on the behalf of Wisconsin Urban Wood in Stevens Point WI. We met with the WIDNR regarding our ongoing partnership and how to further improve the urban wood utilization message across the state and region.
- Began reviewing and providing input on the 2020 road construction projects. Several trees will require removal unfortunately and the removal process will begin this spring. Replacement trees will be installed once the projects are substantially completed.
- I met with utilities crews' multiple times to review trees that are posing a conflict with power lines. So far this winter we have allowed or assisted in the removal of six (6) mature trees under wires. These will be replaced with more appropriate species where space allows.

4) **Discussion regarding the Landscape/Zoning Ordinance:** Committee decided to hold a separate meeting to update this ordinance which will include Tangeman, Short and Bergeson. At this time the sub-committee will keep current point system in place. After revisions are completed, the City Planner will review the changes and forward to the Public Works Comm.

Chair directs Tree Commission sub-committee to meet before April meeting.

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5) **Discussion on DNR Grants:** Committee needs to choose/name a project to submit, decide on the amount to request and find out the City of Stoughton's budget process in order to submit a request for the matching grant. The committee also stated that they would like to consider using the Tree Commission Donation Fund to match the grant. Staff will check into that possibility of using the Donation account and also find the paperwork on the last grant to review.

A project the committee would like to pursue is an area behind Business Park North. The April meeting will be on site at that location. A member also stated that there are storm water grants we could receive for that area which could be separate from the matching grant.

6) **Discussion on Arbor Day Event / School Visits:** Committee discussed school visits only. Kemppainen ordered 250 trees which will need to be bagged for site visits. Schools were assigned as follows: Sandhill – Bergeson, Kegonsa – John K, Fox Prairie – Short and St Ann's – Tangeman.

7) **Future Agenda Items:** Zoning Ordinance, DNR Grant, Plan next Lumber Sale, Arbor Day

Motion by Point seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Respectfully submitted 3/18/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

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