Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 13, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Public Works Building, 2439 County Rd A, Stoughton

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Dean Tangeman, Mike Point and Kevin Short

Absent & Excused: Matt Bartlett and John Kemppainen

Staff: PW Director Brett Hebert and Admin Asst. Vickie Erdahl

Guest:

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

1) **Communications:**

- *Hebert* stated that later this evening (2/9/20 @ 6:00 pm) there was an Open House regarding the 2020 Road Construction Projects. Hebert discussed the trees on the routes and how they would be handles. There is a tree on Prospect St which, if possible, will be saved. Trees marked in green on the plans are in the tree protection zone (TPZ)which Kemppainen will be on site when the project is started to make sure the zones are set up. If the construction company violates the TPZ they will be liable for the tree(s).
- A $16 donation was received from *Point* from the Senior Center for the Tree Commission Donation Fund.
- *Bergeson* stated that his Cub Scout Troop had completed the bird houses (which were made from city wood) for the city to pick up and install in the disc golf area.
- *Hebert* discussed the issue of Tree Wiseman Co starting more tree trimming stating the City Forester checked and reviewed sites, then met with foreman of the company with suggestions. This company has two-year contract with the city, however, the city can renew or send it out for bid
- *Short* announced that the 2020 WAA/DNR Conference was being held February 16-18 and that he would be attending. The City Forester will be presenting at the conference – "*Cost-effective Utilization of Removed Urban Trees".*

2) **Approval of minutes from January 9, 2020 Meeting: Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to approve the minutes. Carried 3-0.**

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

- In-house crews trimmed trees when time allowed in Zone 2. Work in Zone 3 will begin in February.
- Assisted with plowing during multiple snow events in the month of January. Additionally, helped with snow hauling on multiple days.

4) **Discussion regarding the updated Hazardous Tree Ordinance:** *Hebert* stated the Ordinance had both readings and was approved. Updated copies of the Ordinance will be sent to the Tree Commission members for review. The city attorney stated that private/diseased trees that affect public property, the city will be able to take action on, otherwise it's a civil matter between neighbors. Public Works has an internal policy which will be the forester's guideline when situations arise.

5) **Discussion regarding the Landscape/Zoning Ordinance:** *Bergeson* supplied a copy of the ordinance and tables that *Short* developed that will continue to be modified according to the what the committee would like to see in the table within the ordinance. Recommendations made for the process:

- Design list and provide to the zoning department

- Any variances from the lit would need to be reviewed by the City Forester
- List needs to be based on diversity
- Review the list every five years
- Current inventory used as a guideline
- Alter point system

Questions arose: 1) regarding enforcement but we find in another part of the ordinance that there is already something in place, 2) should the table in 78-611 or attachment B be modified (committee would prefer the table), 3) modify language in 78-611 and 4) keep City Planner Michael Stacey in the loop and have him review the table and language modified.

Erdahl to check with Michael Stacey to make sure we modify the table in 78-611.

6) <u>Tree Grates in the Downtown Area Update:</u> *Hebert* stated that some grates were corrected and will inspect remaining pits for work needed and schedule. Committee made some suggestions to investigate 1) a composite type grate, 2) see if there is any TIF money available to spend on grate when the downtown is refurbished in the summer of 2020, 3) have no grates and see if there is an alternative barrier(s) that could be used without being a tripping hazard or perhaps a small fence around the area.

Committee will review the ideas and give suggestions to the City Forester.

7) <u>Oseberg Wagon Update:</u> Lumber was transferred to the non-profit group in December which was used to for wheels and tongues. More wood will be supplied in the year 2020. The Tree Commission will be given credit for project when completed.

8) <u>Discussion on DNR Grants:</u> Committee requested more information on the 1) cities timeline to submit the request for monies as this is a 50/50 matching grant, 2) when the application is due to the DNR and what specific project does the Commission want to apply for to receive the grant.

9) <u>Discussion on Gravel Beds:</u> *Tabled.*

10) <u>Discussion on Tree Pruning:</u> *See notes in communications from Hebert.*

11) <u>Future Agenda Items:</u> Landscape/Tree Ordinance, DNR grant and Arbor Day Event

Motion by Short seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Respectfully submitted 2/21/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

DRAFT