Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 10, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Public Works Facility, 2439 Cty Rd, Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short, Jim Fitzgibbon and Fred Hundt

Absent & Excused: Dean Tangeman

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

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:03 PM

1) **Communications:**

Short stated that the WI Arborist Assc. Winter Conference was going to be done virtual but was unsure of the pricing for each webinar.

Hundt (the new council report) so introductions were made as this was the first meeting for him.

Kemppainen stated he purchased 130 trees for the fall planting

Committee decided to try a virtual meeting for October

2) **Approval of minutes from June 11, 2020 Meeting: Motion by Short, seconded by Hundt to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.**

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

June:

- Tree planting was completed in June. Both nurseries (Arthur Weiler Nursery and McKay Nursery) performed well and will continue to be utilized as long as prices stay fair.
- Tree protection was installed for road construction projects throughout town.
- Tree removals were conducted in preparation for road construction. Approximately 35 trees were removed as well as some shrubs and overgrown natural areas in Bjoin Park neighborhood.
- Tree inventory updates were started in Zone 3. This work will continue throughout summer as it takes many hours to walk the streets and measure every tree/perform inspections and update information.
- I was voted in to continue serving on the steering committee for Wisconsin Urban Wood

July:

- Updated tree inventory in GIS for Zones 3 & 4.
- Trimmed suckers and water sprouts off dozens of young trees in street terraces.
- Sanitary sewer project in Bjoin Park was completed. Preparations have begun for replanting trees in park and on private property which were removed for the project.
- Road construction projects were monitored for tree protection and corrections were made on a couple of occasions.
- Amundson Park Disc Golf course and surrounding trails were inspected for dead/dying ash trees. A total of 233 ash trees were marked for removal during the month of August. Jims Tree Service will conduct the removals.
- Removed several dead oak trees from Bjoin Park (northern section). Sample sent to UW plant clinic last year came back negative for oak wilt. Did not send additional samples this year.

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- Agreed to take part in a research project regarding tree roots and sidewalk replacement as part of a DNR research grant. Details will be forthcoming.

August:

- I visited McKay Nursery to select trees for the fall planting program. At this I have ordered 116 trees, more may be purchased based on need.
- Work began in Amundson Park to remove ash trees. Jim's Tree Service will complete this work sometime in September.
- I assisted with the brush collection program in August
- The Forestry intern completed her summer term with the city in August. She was very helpful with all aspects of the Forestry program.
- I met with the DNR and agreed to take part in a research project looking at tree root/sidewalk conflicts. The study will look at different treatment methods to address roots which are affecting hardscape infrastructure.
- Multiple private ash trees were condemned in July and August.

4) Discussion and possible action on a DNR Grant: *Bergeson* submitted a completed application for the 2021 grant to the committee for review. *Kemppainen* drafted a resolution to submit which is part of the application.

The title of our project is "*Canopy Restoration".* Since this a matching 50/50 grant monies will be spent from the Tre Commission Donation Account and then this same account will be reimbursed when the project is completed, if the Commission receives the grant.

Kemppainen stated that the gravel bed has been installed at the Public Works Facility. The bed will be able to hold 40 bare-root trees which will be planted in the spring of 2021. In the fall of 2021 trees will then be provided to city residents.

Criteria(s) and a form will be established so applications can be processed.

The committee after reviewing the application, decided that 40 (forty) trees instead of 30 (thirty) should be purchased and the volunteer hours for John Kemppainen be increased from 4 (four) to 16 hrs. and the volunteer(s) hours to 8 hrs.

Motion by Short, seconded by Hundt to modify the application with above listed changes, then forward the Grant to the Public Works Committee for review and approval. Motion carried 5-0.

Office staff will then prepare and submit the package to the DNR. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2020.

5) Future Agenda Items: Landscape / Zoning Ordinance Review, Tree application criteria / form

Motion by Hundt seconded by Short to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. Respectfully submitted 9/14/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

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