**Tree Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday December 9, 2021 @ 5:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI**

**Members Present:** Kevin Short, Mike Point, Aaron Mazzone & Kathy Engelberger

**Absent & Excused:** Fred Hundt, Jim Fitzgibbon & Dean Tangeman

**Staff:** City Forester John Kemppainen and Admin Asst. Jen Wagner

**Guest:**

**Call to order:** Engelberger called to order @ 5:00 PM

* **Communications:**
* **Approval of minutes from November 11, 2021 Meeting:**  **Motion by Mazzone, seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 3-0.**
* **November Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:

* Fall tree trimming began in November with the city’s contractor (Tree Wise Men). 180 medium to large trees were trimmed for a total cost of $16,676. City crews will work on small trees in the same neighborhoods this coming winter.
* Tree planting was completed for the fall. 90 trees were planted in the beginning of November, with the majority of the trees being planted in front of new homes and businesses in Stoughton. Total cost for trees this fall was $25,470.
* I began the application process for the Tree City USA status in November. This year will mark 28 years in the TCU program for the city.
* No residents were notified of code violations for dead/dying/dangerous trees in October. Complaisance from previous notifications has been mostly good thus far.
* **OLD BUSINESS: Update on Arbor Day Art show progress:**
* *Engelberger* put together and presented a flyer she created to help advertise & advocate for the show. She is hoping to make this available at the Library, with the next steps later on to put the City website and/or social media outlets.
* **Update on tree planting with the schools:**
* *Kemppainen* stated he was in touch with the school(s) and they are open to the idea but nothing further has been discussed. Ultimately, we would like to try and planting one tree at every school each year. Trees would need to be ordered by early March and he may look into having someone from the school attend a future Tree Commission meeting for input.
* **NEW BUSINESS: Evaluate and recommend plantings suggested by Saiki Design for the Hwy 51 Round-about Project:**
* *Kemppainen* presented the packet that was presented at the November Public Works meeting that Saiki Design put together. The tree commission would like to recommend native plants to be put in but would like to see what Saiki Design proposes at the December meeting and go from there. The city will be in charge of maintaining the plantings so they would like to have an input on what goes in.
* **Future Agenda Items:**
* Propose a list for planting recommendations for Hwy 51 Round-about Project

**Motion by Mazzone, seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted 12/10/21, Jen Wagner -** Staff