

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 5:00 PM
Ed Overland Room, 381 E Main St, Stoughton

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Nick Yuknis, Mike Point, Kevin Short and Sid Boersma

Absent & Excused: Dean Tangeman

Guest:

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:00 PM

1) Communications:

Kemppainen stated:

- That he had sold cedar lumber to the High School at 50% discount for \$70.00.
- In the storm on Sunday, 9/30 a branch broke off a tree on the corner of Fourth & Riverside Dr. which smashed a car. This tree has now been removed by Jim's Tree Service.

2) August & September Forestry Reports: *Kemppainen* stated :

- Completed updating tree inventory
- Road construction projects monitored for tree conflicts
- 16 trees removed in-house and 100 + ash trees removed by Jim's
- Yahara River Trail has 120 ash trees to be removed
- Review of private hazard tree ordinance is ongoing
- 130 purchased for the fall planting and site evaluations have begun
- Preparation has begun for annual pruning program 1) generating lists in Zone 2 for trees greater than 6"- with smaller trees done in-house, 2) contractors will be contacted for quotes
- Stump removal in Racetrack Park has begun
- Kiln dried ash lumber was cut to size for the Virgin Lake Park Trail Boardwalk
- Wood mulch was supplied to a Girl Scout troop for installing a pollinator garden which included butterfly houses at Racetrack Park
- Worked installing a road at the new yard waste site

3) Discussion regarding wood at Racetrack Barn and a Wood Inventory Sales Plan: *Kemppainen* generated pricing per board foot that will be charged when the boards are sold. *Hebert* is talking with the city attorney regarding whether we have to charge sales tax when the wood is sold to the public. The committee is thinking of having a time for open sales to the public and the wood is considered to be a city asset.

The committee decided: 1) the wood will be sold in mixed bundles, 2) Non-profits and schools will receive a 50% discount, 3) to use the Wisconsin Surplus site, 4) run an ad in the paper when all details are sorted out and we can move forward and 5) single boards will be distributed at the Senior Center for a donation.

Point stated that at the Senior Center there isn't a "set" price when an item is sold the customer gives a donation.

Also discussed was the Wood Utilization Policy. The committee feels all parties responsibilities should be spelled out – especially how the funds will be deposited and who pays what expenses.

Committee directed staff to develop language in the plan regarding the distribution of monies from the sale(s) and who pays the cost of milling the logs in the draft of the Wood Utilization Policy.

- 4) **Discussion on Layout of Yard Waste Site @ New Facility:** Committee members reviewed the map of the new yard waste. Questions arose as to where the boards would be kept – they will be stored at the Public Works Facility in a designated area. There is a plan to start a small nursery at the Public Works Facility due to lack of water at the yard waste site.
- 5) **Discussion for Tree City USA & Growth Award Ideas:** At a previous meeting two items were selected to obtain the 2018 Growth Award. Further review determined that one of the selections was not going qualify (A10). After some discussion the following two categories were selected: A) 5 – Community Wide Tree Event and D) 5- Street Tree Pruning. Brian Wahl will be contacted for questions.

Committee directed staff to work on the document and bring to the November meeting for review.

- 6) **Approval of minutes from August 9, 2018 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Short to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.
- 7) **Discussion regarding Tree City USA Event for 2019 – Youth Education /Tree Climbing:** Tabled to November meeting.
- 8) **Future Agenda Items:** Tree Growth Award Plan – outline Arbor Day 2019, Wood Inventory Plan and Wood Utilization Policy

Motion by Short, seconded by Yuknis to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted 10/18/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff