

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Ed Overland Room, 381 E Main St, Stoughton

**Members Present:** Dean Tangeman, Mike Point, Kevin Short and Sid Boersma

**Absent & Excused:** Mitch Bergeson and Nick Yuknis

**Guest:**

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

**Call to order:** Tangeman called to order @ 5:05 PM

### 1) **Communications:**

*Kemppainen* stated:

- A tree was struck by lightning @ 116 S Madison St. on 11/4/18 which took out power and is now removed.
- Spoke with Brian Wahl of the DNR regarding our 2017 Growth Award which was never received by him. He has agreed that we can resubmit the information along with our 2018 information for consideration.
- *Tangeman* stated that Dane County will not let us borrow their equipment for a tree climb which was a thought for an Arbor Day Event in 2019 (separate discussion on the agenda under new business)
- *Bergeson* requested that the committee review updated city web site as "tree" information was never carried over from the old site
- *Boersma* informed the committee that a program to provide housing (4plex) for the homeless was being reviewed for the spring of 2019. If this housing is built, Boersma, was asking if we could help with supplying a tree(s) to help offset costs per the new city tree planting ordinance.

### 2) **October Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated :

- Tree planting was completed during the last week of October. In total, 136 trees were planted (5 of which were under warranty).
- Road construction projects are completed and trees have been planted to counter the tree losses.
- Ash tree stump removals in Racetrack Park were completed.
- The Yahara River Trail ash tree removals were completed. Over one hundred twenty (120) ash trees were removed in total.
- Review of private hazard tree ordinance legality for upcoming EAB issues is ongoing.
- In house crews removed approximately 30 tree stumps in terraces in October.
- The remaining kiln-dried ash lumber was cut down to the proper size for the Virgin Lake Park trail boardwalk project. Installation of the boardwalk is now tentatively scheduled for spring of 2019.
- Assisted with brush collection program (entire week of 10/22/18).
- Attended meeting at Madison College to help advise on structuring a new Urban Forestry Associates Degree program. I will now serve on a committee to steer purchases for the new program as well.
- Met with woodshop instructor at Stoughton High School regarding future work with the Ag students (FFA and woodshop). They would like the solar kiln to be dropped off at the high school soon for a project. A small amount of cedar lumber was also sold to and delivered to the High School woodshop.

- 3) **Discussion and Possible Action on 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.
- A \$20.00 donation was received at the Senior Center for the sale of a piece of cherry wood and brought to the meeting to be deposited to the tree commission funds.
- 4) **Discussion on Tree City USA Categories – Selection:** After a short discussion Category A 5 was selected to use to obtain our Tree City USA Growth Awards.
- 5) **Approval of minutes from October 11, 2018 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.
- 6) **Discussion regarding Tree City USA Event for 2019 – Youth Education /Tree Climbing:** *Tangeman* spoke with Adan Alves and was made aware that Madison cannot loan us the equipment to use here in the city and is checking into other options. A time and location will need to be chosen along with ways to advertise. *Tangeman* is checking into a waiver form that we could use.
- 7) **Discussion and Possible Action on Wood Utilization Plan:** *Kemppainen* is still revising the document. Previous minutes were obtained with instructions for the Senior Center Director, McGlynn and Erdahl to work on a split of the funds which the committee feels we could use as a template at the point and to set up a meeting to discuss.
- 8) **Future Agenda Items:** Website, Update Wood Inventory Plan and Wood Utilization Policy and 2019 Arbor Day Event, Review planting specs

Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 11/15/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff