

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING
November 12, 2013
Department of Public Works Conference Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mike Penckofer, Glen Pfeffer, Rick Schwarz, & Todd Holschbach

Staff Present: Chad Scheinoha & Alvin Rehme

Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order by M. Penckofer at 4:32 PM

Approval of the minutes from the February 12 & April 26, 2013 meetings

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 12th & April 26th meetings was made by M. Penckofer and seconded by G. Pfeffer. Motion carried unanimously.

Public input session

None

Update on Arborist Position

C. Scheinoha introduced the new Arborist, Alvin Rehme.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

C. Scheinoha informed the commission that only necessary tree trimming and removal has been done lately due to the backlog of other work from being short an employee for almost four months. A. Rehme has been working on becoming familiar with the Stratapoint system. He will now begin prioritizing the list of trees that need attention.

There was a discussion of the possibility of a volunteer cleaning up dead trees in Lincoln Park. In areas where there are no paths, it can be beneficial to the animals to leave some downed trees. C. Scheinoha indicated that he would be willing to meet with the individual.

Review of tree ordinances, planting policy, and removal policy

M. Penckofer recommended removing ash trees from the list of recommended trees and correcting a spelling error. Approximately one third of the trees in Manitowoc are ash trees. The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been detected in the city of Two Rivers. The EAB can be brought into the area through trees from a nursery or firewood brought into the area.

Discussion & possible action regarding trimming of trees in the City right-of-way and a proposed guideline for utility tree pruning

C. Scheinoha passed out some proposed guidelines which had been drawn up in response to complaints from citizens regarding trees that had been trimmed by various utilities. M. Penckofer said that the goal of one utility he is familiar with is to only trim every 10 years, so they would trim back whatever they felt might grow into the lines within that time.

M. Penckofer recommended changing the guideline from one third to one quarter to follow arborist guidelines. C. Scheinoha will contact Asplundh to see if they keep a record of trees removed or trimmed. M. Penckofer suggested that you could also have them complete a tree removal permit each time they take down a tree, and it would help to maintain the records. R. Schwarz said that the more regulations you put on the utility, the more their rates will go up. C. Scheinoha told the commission that

Asplundh said that if there are trees with branches in the wires that we feel need to come down completely, they would be willing to remove the whole tree for us, since it is often easier to remove the whole tree than to trim each of the small branches around the wires.

Discussion & possible action on a master plan for managing Lakeside Boulevard Bluff

T. Holschbach explained the background of the Lakeside Boulevard group. He said that the main erosion problem with the bluff is seepage from underground springs and heavy rain. Since they have started maintaining the area, there have been more people traveling the area to take advantage of the view.

The City Attorney's Office believes that having volunteers operating chainsaws on a bluff leaves the city open to too much liability. They would be okay with an outside company which carries liability insurance doing the work. There is a possibility the Lakeside Boulevard group would be willing to pay for this work.

T. Holschbach would like to see a master plan developed to reduce erosion in the area and to show what is okay to plant in the area. M. Penckofer stated you have to make sure the master plan does not violate any of the City's policies for plantings, etc. in the City's right-of-way. T. Holschbach suggested making this area a park so that it could be managed through the Park & Rec Committee instead of both the Park & Rec and Public Infrastructure Committees.

Discussion & possible action on downtown and Calumet Avenue street trees

M. Penckofer said there are limited areas on Calumet Avenue and some islands where trees could be placed. The terraces on the business side are very narrow. Then, there is the issue of who maintains the trees. Because Calumet Avenue is heavily traveled, you would have to find salt tolerant trees for the islands. From S 26th Street to the Visitor's Center, about 15 or 20 trees could be planted. Tree planting on the islands could be a grant opportunity and would help fulfill the Tree City requirements.

Discussion & possible action on 2014 meeting schedule

The Commission discussed the meeting schedule and plans for Arbor Day. The Izaak Walton League generally donates two trees to the City for Arbor Day.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

smsr