

MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING
August 11, 2015
Department of Public Infrastructure Conference Room

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chairman Mike Penckofer, Glenn Pfeffer, Ald. Al Schema, Nic Levendusky, Todd Holschbach

Staff Present: Al Rehme, Dan Koski

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:28 p.m. by M. Penckofer.

Election of Officers

N. Levendusky nominated T. Holschbach for Chairman. M. Penckofer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

M. Penckofer nominated G. Pfeffer for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the February 10, 2015 meeting were approved.

Report on Tree Maintenance Since Last Meeting

Since the last meeting on February 10th, the tree crew has worked at approximately 80 locations and removed 45 trees. There were two weekend callouts and three weekday callouts. Twenty one loads of wood were sold. The tree planting total for the year is 13, five of which were donated (four by Izaak Walton League, one by the Manitowoc Garden Club at Dewey St. Park). The arial tree truck failed its annual inspection by the DOT, because of a cracked weld on the frame, but it is now back in service.

Urban forestry grant opportunities

Al is waiting to hear from Canadian National about a grant for trees at Emma Radandt Park. He will be applying for another grant from American Transmission Corporation and for a matching grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (D.N.R.). Al will be viewing an online session regarding applying for grants with Tracy Salisbury from the D.N.R.

Review of Arbor Day 2015

There was a photo of the Arbor Celebration in the newspaper. Trees were planted on Franklin Street and a bench was donated by Zabel Monuments. The inscription on the bench was dedicated to the Izaak Walton League. Seedlings were given out to school children who attended.

Update on the forestry fund

The balance of the forestry fund is \$1,924.

City tree removal action plan & priority policy

D. Koski gave a review of the proposed policy. Annually, the Parks Office receives approximately 300 calls for forestry issues. Approximately 60 trees are removed each year. As of June 23rd, there are 140 open issues of which 106 are for tree removals and 17 are ordinance violations. Forestry requests would be divided into four categories which are prioritized.

In 2016, the Department of Public Infrastructure plans to budget an additional \$6000 in the sidewalk program to remove the 4-D trees that are in the areas where sidewalk will be replaced. An additional \$20,000 will also be proposed in the budget for hiring a contractor to help the department “catch up” by removing several of the dangerous trees. A discussion was held about getting a recommendation regarding these budget requests from the Commission to the Common Council. It was decided to send this issue to the Park & Recreation Committee for their approval and subsequent recommendation to the Common Council.

M. Penckofer suggested having the City Forester go along with Engineering personnel marking sidewalks on the Green Dot Program to see if there are areas where sidewalks could be replaced with a radius around the tree. Grinding of sidewalks, such as in the case where tree roots are uplifting them, is also allowed so that there is no trip hazard.

T. Holschbach expressed concerns about relying on volunteers too much and the liability associated with volunteers.

Adjournment

A motion was made by N. Levendusky to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by T. Holschbach. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

smsr