

# **MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**February 26, 2019**

**Department of Public Infrastructure Conference Room**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Todd Holschbach, Vice Chairman Nic Levendusky, Glenn Pfeffer

Staff Present: Alvin Rehme

## **Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman T. Holschbach.

## **Annual election of officers**

Tabled.

## **Approval of the minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2018 meeting was made by N. Levendusky and seconded by G. Pfeffer. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Public input session**

None.

## **Report on tree maintenance since last meeting**

City crews have:

- Performed work at approximately 107 locations,
- Removed 27 trees,
- Trimmed 85 trees,
- Responded to one callout,
- Delivered 14 loads of firewood,
- Planted 18 trees, and
- Reviewed 1 tree planting & 3 removal permits.

Current have forestry service requests for:

- 74 "4-D" (dead, diseased, dying, or dangerous) trees to be removed, and
- 88 trees to be trimmed.

## **Update on the forestry fund**

The balance of the forestry fund as of February 26, 2019 is approximately \$11,687. After expenses are deducted, the usable balance is approximately \$9,624.57.

## **Urban forestry grant opportunities**

The ATC grant was denied. Future grant opportunities will be addressed by the Parks Planner.

## **Tree Planting Program for current year & beyond**

This is still in the planning stage. Further discussion was tabled.

### **Revisions to Tree Maintenance & Removal Policy**

A discussion was held regarding the trimming methods used by contractors hired by MPU for quadrant trimming. A. Rehme & C. Scheinoha met with MPU for the purpose of discussing trimming guidelines. No decisions were made, and the issue was tabled.

### **Tree ordinance violations over the street & sidewalk**

The Commission members discussed height clearances on primary and secondary streets and sidewalks. The issue was tabled.

### **Update on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infected trees**

Chris Lewis Tree Service has been awarded the contract to remove 15 infected ash trees along City streets and 11 infected ash trees at Washington Park. Work will begin in March and finish by April 30, 2019. The Parks Division forestry crew is planning to remove 15 infected street trees with the work set to begin as soon as weather permits. This work should also be completed by April 30, 2019.

The number of EAB infected trees continues to increase on the south side of Manitowoc. The trees are located in the area bordered by South 11<sup>th</sup> on the east, South 22<sup>nd</sup> on the west, Franklin Street on the north and Columbus Street on the south. EAB has now been found north of the river on Park Street near Union Park and has been confirmed at Citizen Park.

Forestry staff have treated 25 ash trees located at Citizen Park, the Visitor Information Center, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, and along the Mariners Trail. Treatments will continue in the spring of 2019 along the Mariners Trail, at Evergreen Cemetery, and at several parks.

The City has received a draft of the new EAB plan prepared by Ranger Services for the City, and the plan is currently under review. The new plan should be ready for review and approval by the Municipal Tree Commission at the April meeting.

The City of Manitowoc has been contacted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as a possible release site for the Parasitic Wasp in an effort to slow the advance of EAB. The release is set to take place in the spring of 2020.

### **Sewer pipes clogged by tree roots**

An explanation of the issue was given by A. Rehme, and a discussion was held on the policy. The issue was tabled.

### **Annual review of fees**

The Committee reviewed the current fees and discussed a possible fee increase in the future. The issue was tabled.

### **Meeting schedule for 2019**

A motion to approve the meeting schedule was made by G. Pfeffer and seconded by N. Levendusky. Motion carried.

### **Arbor Day 2019**

The Arbor Day Celebration for 2019 is planned for April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Manitowoc Public Library. The ceremonial tree planting will take place at the corner of Maritime Drive and North 8<sup>th</sup> Street by the Flower

Gallery. G. Pfeffer spoke on behalf of the Izaak Walton League, who will donate two trees for the event. The variety of tree will be chosen at a later date. A. Rehme thanked G. Pfeffer on behalf of the City. Madison School will be contacted to see if some students will be able to attend. Tree seedlings to be handed out to school children attending the celebration have been ordered from the WDNR.

### **Stump removal**

A discussion was held regarding the costs to contract for stump removals and possible stump grinding by the City. The issue was tabled.

### **Review of Urban Forestry Grant & Tree for a Tree Program**

The City of Manitowoc Parks Division, the Manitowoc County Recycling Center, and Silver Creek Nurseries partnered together in the first annual Tree for a Tree Program. Residents were able to exchange a Christmas tree for a voucher for a young sapling to be redeemed in April or May at Silver Creek Nurseries. A total of 75 vouchers were handed out in a week in a half. This was an effort to help residents as well as to help the City regain some of the urban canopy which will be lost due to the devastating effects of EAB.

### **Update on the City of Manitowoc Forestry Plan with a focus on downtown**

A discussion was held, and the issue was tabled.

### **Pedestrian/transportation improvements related to MMC 15.690 Landscaping & Off-Street Parking Requirements**

Tabled.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by N. Levendusky to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by G. Pfeffer and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

AR/smsr