

**MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room West, City Hall, 900 Quay St.**

Commissioners Present: Al Schema, Horst Abel, Tim Randerson, Alder Vanderkin

Staff Present: Billy Hutterer, Alvin Rehme

Excused: Dan Koski

**Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by A. Schema.

**Approval of the minutes from the September 14, 2021 meeting**

A motion was made and seconded by to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Input Session**

None.

**Report on tree maintenance since last meeting**

- 53 locations had work done since 9/14/21
- 4 trees removed
- 49 trees trimmed
- 11 loads of firewood
- 0 tree removal permits
- 0 planting permits

**Update on the forestry fund**

The balance in the fund is \$11,760.88. The fund is used for equipment and for planting new trees.

**Urban forestry grant opportunities**

Staff did apply for the WI DNR Urban Forestry Grant, which is a matching grant up to \$20,000. It would be earmarked for ash tree removals, stump grinding and replanting. The grant application was named "one plus one equals two," since two trees will be planted for every one removed.

**Addition of the Tree Planting Plan into the Street Tree Planting Policy**

A. Schema made a motion to table this issue as the ordinances related to forestry are being revised. It was seconded by H. Abel. Motion carried unanimously.

**Need to increase tree planting in the City of Manitowoc**

The City took ownership of 30 trees, intended mostly for terraces and memorial trees. Trees will be kept at the City pit until they can be planted.

A shrub was removed from the median at Lincoln Boulevard. H. Abel said the area looks bare now, and it should look nice for visitors. He would like to see another noticeable-size shrub planted. The Commission members also discussed planting trees in the grassy area on the northwest corner of N 18<sup>th</sup> and Waldo Boulevard.

### **Recommendation letter regarding fees associated with trees damaged in accidents**

Staff is working on a letter.

### **Arbor Day 2022**

The Commission discussed possible locations, such as Silver Creek Park, Camp Vits, Lighthouse Park, the hill by Red Arrow Park, and Citizen Park. The Commission is leaning towards having the event at Citizen Park with a second choice of Red Arrow Park.

### **Camp Vits Logging Plan Review**

The park consists of approximately 76 acres of which 26 acres would have trees, such as ash, removed. None of the trees would be cut in the area north of the ravine. If the southern portion is logged and the timber sold, then tree removal wouldn't cost the City any money. A. Rehme said that it should be done soon, since once the bark falls off the tree, some of the loggers don't want the wood anymore.

The Parks & Recreation Manager, Curt Hall, had previously suggested removing some of the red oak trees as well to open up the canopy so that the bike trails can dry out better. Some of the neighbors are opposed to cutting the oak trees. The City hired Rollefson to mark the trees for removal, including the oak trees near the trail that are in decline. Mr. Rollefson marked 50 of the 240 red oak trees, 5 of 97 white oak trees, 5 sugar maples, and 125 ash trees. Currently, there is no regeneration of oak trees there as they are not shade tolerant. By opening up the canopy, the stumps could begin to sprout and grow again from the base. At this point, there is no plan to re-plant as trees will naturally just grow. Due to concerns from residents about removing the oak trees, the City is now looking to find someone who will just purchase the ash trees. According to the City Forester, it is interesting to note that residents were not concerned about removal of the sugar maple trees, which are worth more than the red oaks. The underlying issue is that most of the neighbors do not want to see the park developed.

### **Ordinance to amend Section 8.190 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code regulating Trees & Shrubs**

The Attorney's Office is currently working on changes to the ordinance, but staff has questions about some of the proposed changes. The issue was tabled to the next meeting.

### **2022 meeting schedule**

No changes were made to the proposed schedule.

The City Forester showed the Commission some new binders that are being created for the members, so that everyone has information regarding policies, permits, ordinances, etc.

### **Adjournment**

A. Schema made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by H. Abel and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

SMSR