



MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.
1st Floor Conference Room West, City Hall, 900 Quay St.

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

Staff Present: Billy Hutterer, Alvin Rehme

Excused: Dan Koski

Members of the Public: Lee & Eileen Kummer

Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. by A. Schema.

Approval of the minutes from the November 9, 2021 meeting

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

Public Input Session

Lee Kummer spoke about having more trees replaced. He would like to see four to five trees planted for each tree removed, as the Emerald Ash Borer is having a devastating effect on the trees. He also asked about the possibility of having more trees planted along the Mariners Trail.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

- 244 trees removed – 95% were ash trees in parks
- 42 trees trimmed
- 14 loads of firewood
- 0 tree removal permits
- 0 planting permits

The commission discussed ways to use wood chips.

Update on the forestry fund

The forestry fund was absorbed into the general fund.

Urban forestry grant opportunities

The City of Manitowoc was selected to receive a 2022 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant. It is a matching grant valued at \$19,887.87 which will be used to remove ash trees and plant new trees in their place.

Need to increase tree planting in the City of Manitowoc

T. Randerson asked about replanting trees in the area by the turning lane by Waldo and County Highway R near the Time Out Sports Bar and Grill. A. Schema asked if the Mayor knows about how many trees are needed in general. T. Randerson asked if it's possible to plant smaller trees, so a larger number of trees could be planted. Staff stated that it's possible, however, the availability of trees is an issue, and smaller trees tend to get damaged more easily than larger trees.

Arbor Day 2022

The Commission discussed having the Arbor Day Celebration at Citizen Park on April 29, 2022. The Izaak Walton League will again donate money towards two trees. A. Rehme will contact Jackson School to see if they would be interested in bringing a school group to the event, and he will order seedlings to be handed out to the students.

Camp Vits Logging

After public input was received, the Common Council voted to only have ash trees logged at Camp Vits Park. Bid notices for the sale of timber were sent out with Lakeshore Forest Products submitting a successful bid valued at \$4,752. The Board of Public Works approved the sale at the January 5, 2022 meeting. The logging should be done sometime in the summer.

Recommendation letter regarding fees associated with trees damaged in accidents

The Commission discussed raising the fee for removal and replacement of trees damaged in accidents. There was a discussion of not wanting the fees to go into the general fund. A suggestion was made by Al for all money from trees damaged in accidents to go into the Forestry fund. H. Abel then made a motion for all money from trees damaged in accidents to go into the Forestry fund. Ald. Vanderkin seconded the motion. Motion passed with four votes to approve.

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

This issue is tabled until the ordinances related to forestry are revised.

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

Tabled until the revisions are complete under new legal counsel.

Review 2021 Tree City USA application

The members reviewed the completed application.

Annual election of officers

H. Abel made a motion to nominate A. Schema for Chairman. T. Randerson seconded. A. Schema abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Schema made a motion to nominate T. Randerson for Vice Chairman. H. Abel seconded. T. Randerson abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

SMSR