



MUNICIPAL TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.
1st Floor Conference Room West, City Hall, 900 Quay St.

Commissioners Present: Al Schema, Alder Debaets, Tim Randerson, & Horst Abel

Staff Present: Dan Koski, Billy Hutterer, Al Rehme

Commissioners Absent: Denise Maser

Members of the Public: (none)

Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by A. Schema.

Approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2024 meeting

A motion was made by H. Abel and seconded by A. Schema to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public input session

None.

Report on tree maintenance since last meeting

541 trees removed – mostly ash & some storm damage (Most of the ash trees on terraces have been removed, but many ash trees in parks and other City properties remain.)

147 locations where trees were trimmed

19 loads of firewood delivered

74 trees were planted

11 tree removal permits

2 planting permits

Urban forestry grant opportunities

Al Rehme told the commission that the City's Parks Planner is in the process of applying for another Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Urban Forestry grant. The deadline is October 1st.

Recap of Arbor Day 2024

The 2024 celebration was held at the Manitowoc Senior Center, and Bethany Lutheran School 3rd & 4th grade students participated (43 students plus teachers/chaperones). The public schools were not in session on Arbor Day. Each of the students got a white spruce seedling through the WDNR. A ceremonial tree planting of a swamp white oak tree was held at Halvorsen Park, and the students got to participate by putting mulch around the tree.

Forestry assessments 2024

B. Hutterer reviewed the three proposed assessments with the commission. These are for private tree issues that were not abated after sending a 30-day notice to the property owner. The City's Forestry staff then completed the work. D. Koski explained to the commission that property owners who are subject to an assessment have an opportunity to appeal the assessment. A. Schema made a motion to

approve the Forestry Assessments and move them onto the Common Council. H. Abel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Review of Forestry Fees

B. Hutterer reviewed the various forestry fees with the commission. The staff does not recommend raising any rates for firewood as there is so much of it, and it can be difficult to get rid of. B. Hutterer also explained that citizens can complete a Wood Cutting & Harvesting Agreement to cut up and haul away downed wood in parks and other City properties. The Forestry Division is now dumping logs at Indian Creek Park for people to cut up and haul out. A motion to approve the fees as is was made and then seconded by H. Abel. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. It carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

SMSR