**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

January 13, 2016, 3:30 P.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Mark Sanderson, John Hager, Marilyn Tormey

ABSENT: Sunshine McDonald, Pam Munro

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Students from Marion High School Government class, Tom Ryan

Minutes

Moved by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson to approve the October 15, 2015, Tree Board minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

Staff presented the financial report in a new format. This will reflect any grants received and the associated expenditures, as well as Memorial Tree revenue and expenditures. Currently there are no grant balances and no open memorial funds received. The report was received and filed.

Public Input

Tom Ryan introduced himself. He has submitted a board member application for consideration. Ryan shared that he was born and raised in Marion and works at HyVee. He stated that he has a lot to learn but loves trees and is fascinated by the diversity of trees. Carolan stated Board Member Ed Begley’s term expired and he is not being reappointed. Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen to recommend Tom Ryan’s application be sent to the Mayor for consideration. All in favor, motion carried.

Election of Officers

Moved by Hager and seconded by Sanderson to retain Hansen as Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Hansen and seconded by Hager to retain Sanderson as Vice Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Nomination for Secretary: Hansen made a motion to nominate Tormey as Secretary. Hager seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Tormey is Secretary.

The elected officers assumed their roles for the remainder of the meeting.

Significant Ash Trees in Ascension & Starry Parks

Cimprich reported that not all of the ash trees in city parks were considered for treatment in 2015. He asked the board members to look at Ascension and Starry Parks in the right-of-way areas to determine if the ash trees would be considered significant to treat. Hansen noted that Ascension has multiple ash trees in a row and suggested a plan to keep every other one or thin in some manner to encourage healthier growth.

Arborist Tech I and Arborist Tech II Job Descriptions

A department initiative beginning January 1 was to create a job description for an Arborist Tech position. In the process, staff decided to create two job descriptions; an Arborist Tech II to be filled this spring, and an Arborist Tech I to be available for future growth of the Urban Forestry Division. The Tech II position will include supervisory responsibilities and the Tech I will be an operations position. Field related certificates will be required or need to be obtained within a certain time period after being hired. The two job descriptions will go to City Council on January 21. The Arborist Tech II position will be posted internally first and externally if no qualified candidate comes forth. The position will be part of the ASCFME union.

Iowa Native Plant Society Grant Application

Cimprich has been working with Rich Patterson of Winding Pathways to complete a $1,250 grant request for tools for volunteer events. The application is due Friday, January 15. Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Tormey to support the submittal of a grant application from the Iowa Native Plant Society in the amount of $1,250 for tools. Tormey asked if the department has looked at Rockwell’s Green Community Grant. Cimprich replied that he intends to look at it in the near future. All in favor, motion carried.

Tree City USA Application

The Tree City USA and Growth Award applications were submitted at the end of December. Marion was able to meet the requirements for both designations. Cimprich explained the designation shows the City is working to improve tree canopy and management of trees. Designations will be announced in late January.

Receive and File

None.

Other

Cimprich presented a list of potential sites to be considered for the street tree replacement program in 2016. The goal is to replace about 40 trees in 2016.

The Attendance Report for 2015 was presented for review.

Board members were reminded about the City’s Board & Commission reception on January 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 at City Hall.

Board Discussion Time

None.

Adjournment

Moved by Hansen and seconded by Sanderson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 7 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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Marilyn Tormey, Secretary