**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

April 13, 2016, 7:00 A.M.

Starry Park / Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Pam Munro, Marilyn Tormey, Sunshine McDonald, Tom Ryan, Mark Sanderson

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Darcie Coberly

GUESTS: Marion High School Government Class Students

Meeting called to order at Starry Park.

Starry Park Ash Tree Evaluations

Ash trees at Starry Park were evaluated to determine which ones were significant and deemed worthy of EAB treatment.

Chair Hansen declared a recess at Starry Park at 7:20 a.m.

Chair Hansen reconvened the meeting at 7:30 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

Minutes

Moved by Tormey and seconded by Munro to approve the March 9, 2016, Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Two grants have been received in the past month.

Public Input

None.

Significant Ash Trees in Starry and Ascension Parks

The Board members discussed which trees at Starry Park were providing the most benefit and looked healthy. Three ash trees were identified as significant to receive the EAB treatment. While in good health, the other trees will not be removed so the canopy at the ball diamonds is not severely disturbed. When and where possible, new trees will be planted. Moved by Tormey and seconded by Munro to treat three ash trees at Starry Park as identified at the site visit. All in favor, motion carried.

At Ascension Park, the ash trees are not in good health and are planted too close together. These trees were not deemed significant and therefore will not be treated for EAB. The trees can be thinned out and new trees planted. Hansen stated for every two trees removed, one could be replanted to provide adequate growth space. Moved by Tormey and seconded by Ryan not to treat any of the ash trees at Ascension Park. All in favor, motion carried.

Faulkes Heritage Woods Assessment and Management Plan

Hansen said he reviewed the plan in detail and it looked good. Ryan stated the plan was ingenious. Moved by Hansen and seconded by Munro to recommend to City Council to adopt the Faulkes Heritage Woods Assessment and Management Plan. The City Council will receive and file the plan on April 21. All in favor, motion carried.

Grant Updates

The Alliant Energy Branching Out grant was received. The $5,250 award will fund 40 trees to be planted along Tower Terrace Road. This final phase will add trees at the west end between Tenth Street and Alburnett Road. The trees will be planted on May 16 as part of the One Day In May service project for Marion High School.

The department was awarded a $1,000 grant from the Iowa Native Plant Society. These funds will be used to purchase tools and safety equipment for use at volunteer work projects. Cimprich has ordered leather gloves, safety glasses, safety vests, handsaws, loppers, pruners, and an herbicide applicator. Most of the items have been received.

2016 Arbor Day – April 29

The site selected for the Arbor Day Celebration will be the Lowe Park Edible Orchard. Following the Arbor Day Proclamation reading, two new cherry bushes and a replacement Mount Royal Plum will be planted. (The plum was lost to deer damage over the winter.)

Upcoming Events

Earth Week begins April 18. The department and Trees Forever will be conducting Woodland Care Day at Faulkes Heritage Woods on April 18. On April 19 there will be a history and nature walk at Thomas Park followed by a Tree Keepers class.

The City Showcase will be held April 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in City Square Park. The City Council and each department will have booths so the public can interact with staff and see what city government is all about.

On May 18 at Lowe Park Arts and Environment Center the Milkweed Seedball Making Workshop will be held. The seedballs are then given to Ragbrai participants to scatter in the ditches as they make their way across Iowa in July.

Linn-Mar Seniors will perform a service project on May 25 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Twenty students will work with staff at Lowe Park removing steel posts and wires and mulching trees.

Sanderson left the meeting at 8:20.

Receive and File

None.

Other

Board members discussed the open board seat. Interested persons will need to complete an application found on the City’s website for boards and commissions. Munro shared some information she learned at the Tree City USA Luncheon program about utilizing people from the community for various reasons. She asked if a Kirkwood student in a relevant major could complete an internship and become a board member. Carolan said the student would need to be a Marion resident. He also stated he is checking to see if it would be possible to have associate members on the Board.

Board Discussion Time

None.

Adjournment

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Marilyn Tormey, Secretary