

MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES

November 9, 2016, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Scott Hansen, Marilyn Tormey, Mark Sanderson, Tom Ryan,
Rodney Bluml

ABSENT: Sunshine McDonald, Pam Munro

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Tormey requested ROW be spelled out right-of-way in the minutes the first time the phrase is used in a document. Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Ryan to approve the October 12, 2016 Tree Board minutes as corrected. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

There were no changes to the Financial Report.

Public Input

None.

Branching Out Fall Cycle Update

Staff reported 66 trees were planted at the south entrance to Lowe Park for the Branching Out fall planting project. Cimprich stated it was recently discovered the grant award confirmation from Trees Forever was not received. The application was e-mailed in June, however, Trees Forever advised it was not received. Cimprich indicated he is working with Trees Forever and Alliant Energy to see if there are any remaining funds available or if the next request should be increased. Hansen asked what we need to do in the future so it does not happen again. Trees Forever said there had been some computer problems in the last year and perhaps the application ended up in a "junk" folder. Cimprich stated the spring grant application deadline was met by November 1 and he has confirmation that it was received.

Street Tree Replacement Program

At last month's meeting the Street Tree Replacement Program was discussed. With the development of the Urban Forestry Division, the tasks of the program could be shifted to city staff. A list of potential replacement trees will be compiled and presented to the Tree Board for review and final approval. The board is in favor of making this transition.

Code Review Chapter 152 Trees

Cimprich has continued the review of the code. He will incorporate the recommended changes into a document and e-mail it to the board members. If anyone has any questions they can contact him with the goal to have the project finalized at the December meeting.

Other Action or Discussion Items

Cimprich reported the tree at 850 Lindale Drive which was approved for removal by the board

has been completed and the owner has had the sidewalk replaced. Dirt work on the tree removal should be completed this week.

Sanderson asked about the Peace Tree at City Park. The current tree was planted in the mid 1990's in the middle of the park and is an important part of the annual Christmas in the Park festivities and holiday park decorations. Sanderson recommended the Blue Spruce be replaced with a Fir. Bluml asked why the tree is in the middle of the park and it was shared it is where the electricity has been placed. The location for the new tree has not been determined and whether the old tree will be removed first. This will be a project for 2017.

Hansen asked if there was interest in participating in the *One Day in May* annual tree planting opportunity on May 15, 2017. Cimprich recommended the location for the plantings would be Waldo's Rock Park and include planting approximately 50 hardwood and shade trees. This new seven acre park is located on the east side of Marion and includes a newly constructed pavilion, pond, prairie grass, and native hardwood trees. The park donated by Waldo Morris also features a glacial erratic rock and parking area for the trail connection to the Grant Wood Trail which crosses Highway 13. Cimprich will contact the student coordinator for the project to finalize the plans.

Staff Report

Fall tree plantings were completed with 32 street tree replacements and the 66 trees planted at the new south entrance to Lowe Park.

Cimprich reported right-of-way tree trimming continues. As leaves continue to fall more trimming will be done throughout the parks.

The *Trees for Kids* planting project with Linn-Mar High School Ag Science students was completed with twelve trees planted along the right-of-way adjacent to the high school. Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs Company was the supplier for the trees and were recommended by the grant provider. The trees are grown from seed and believed to establish more quickly.

Adjournment

Moved by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

Marilyn Tormey, Secretary