**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

December 14, 2016, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Mark Sanderson, Marilyn Tormey, Tom Ryan, Sunshine McDonald

Rodney Bluml

ABSENT: Scott Hansen, Pam Munro

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Mike Carolan, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Ryan to approve the November 9, 2016 Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed. Payments were made for trees planted at Linn-Mar associated with the *Trees for Kids Grant.* The department did receive funding from the *Branching Out Grant* sponsored by Trees Forever and Alliant for trees planted this fall at Lowe Park. As reported at the November meeting, the *Branching Out Grant* application was not received by Trees Forever. Cimprich worked with Alliant and Trees Forever, and after consideration of the application they were able to provide funding for the grant project.

Public Input

None.

Trees for Kids Seedling Packet Program

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is sponsoring the Trees for Kids Seedling Packet Program which offers various packets containing 200 seedlings for planting in parks and schools. The saplings are grown from seed in the Iowa DNR nursery and applicants are to select two packets, but will receive one. Cimprich reviewed the various packets and will be requesting a storm resistant packet and a wind break or pollinator packet. The storm resistant packet includes northern pecan, white oak, swamp white oak and shag bark hickory and would be planted at Lowe Park near the tree farm to expand our hardwood trees. The wind break or pollinator packet would be planted at Lowe Park near the south entrance to create a woodland play area. The intent is to continue with the program and plant trees in multiple areas. Students and other volunteers would be included in the tree planting event. Moved by Sanderson and seconded by McDonald to submit an application for the Trees for Kids Seedlign Packet Program. All in favor, motion carried.

Code Review Chapter 152 Trees

A brief review was made of the proposed changes to the Marion Code Chapter 152 Trees and the Arboricultural Specifications and Standards. It was determined that more work needs to be done on this project and recommendations include changing the language from falling to failing trees, Forester to Arborist, address the issue of visibility due to trees, periodic review of the ordinance specifications and other suggestions. Mike Carolan advised staff will continue their review and provide another draft to the Tree Board with a March or April timeline for completion and submittal to City Council.

Other Action or Discussion Items

None

Staff Report

Cimprich reported a lot of time has been spent trimming right of way trees. Tree chippers were demonstrated so the department can make a purchase before June 30. A bucket truck will also be purchased in this current fiscal year.

A work day at Faulkes Woods was held on November 12 in conjunction with Trees Forever. Students from Coe College heard about the project and attended to help with the work. Work days will be held once per month during January, February and March. The main focus of the work is to remove invasive Japanese Barberry plants. As a result of board member interest Cimprich will e-mail information to them with upcoming dates and time for the planned work days.

Board Discussion

The question was asked about the status of the Peace Tree at City Park. Carolan advised staff will be assessing the condition and location of all the trees in City Park. This will also determine if the Peace Tree does need to be removed and the best location for a new tree. It is recommended the Tree Board, Chamber of Commerce and Arts Festival be involved in this project as it does impact events at City Park. After review and recommendations, the proposal will go back to the Park Board for final approval.

Adjournment

Moved by Bluml and seconded by Sanderson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Marilyn Tormey, Secretary