**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

April 12, 2017, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

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

Rodney Bluml

ABSENT: Sunshine McDonald

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson to approve the March 8, 2017, Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

There were no changes to the Financial Report.

Public Input

None.

Tree Maintenance Contract Renewal

The contract for tree maintenance is due for renewal. Carolan explained the last contract was approved in 2014 and automatically renews annually with contractors when there are no changes. A meeting was held with Breeden Tree Service to review pricing and minor wording changes. Some of the wording changes include using Arborist language, marking and tagging trees, changing the distance from 7 ft. to 10 ft. above sidewalks, and addressing ash trees. Carolan noted there are no changes to pricing and Breeden has been maintaining trees for about 15 years. They have been the low bidder, reliable and are very responsive to any concerns we may have. It was noted there is an inventory of ash trees attached to the contract which now shows 957 trees and including ash trees in city parks. It was noted the percentage of ash trees changed from 25% to 16% of the city trees. Tormey requested that EAB be spelled out the first time it appears in the contract when addressing the Emerald Ash Borer as it relates to ash trees. Moved by Hanson and seconded by Sanderson to recommend to City Council to approve the contract with Breeden Tree Service. All in favor, motion carried.

Action/Discussion Item

Carolan reported the Mayor and City Council had approved the removal of
Pam Munro from the Tree Board, and she was advised of the action. If members know of anyone interested in joining the board to fill the vacancy, they need to contact City Hall.

Carolan stated the Arbor Day proclamation will be made at the April 20 City Council meeting. Cimprich will be attending and encouraged Tree Board members to attend. This item will be one of the first items on the agenda.

Staff Report

Cimprich distributed a list of spring forestry events and provided additional event details. It was noted the April 28 Arbor Day celebration at the Lowe Park south entrance will include planting the *Trees for Kids* saplings. Board members were advised to use the entrance off Irish Drive for the location. The May 15 Marion High School One Day in May event will be the Alliant *Branching Out* planting of 45 to 50 trees at Waldo’s Rock Park. May 16 Master Gardeners/Blue Zones Fruit Tree planting will be 14 trees which were ordered last fall; the time needs to be confirmed.

Stump removal of the former Peace Tree at City Park has been completed. A Con Color Fir was ordered from Evergreen and will be planted in the general area where the tree was removed.

The bucket truck with a 60 ft. reach and chipper box has been ordered.

The Linn County Health Department approved the burning permit for two locations; Lowe Park and Faulkes Heritage Woods. Dates for the burns have not been finalized due to the early spring greening of the locations and the necessity of a south wind. The Marion Fire Department will assist with the burn. There are also volunteers from various agencies who will assist with the burn event.

The department hosted a chain saw training at the end of March with the assistance if the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Positive feedback was received. The day included a morning seminar and an afternoon of “hands on” use of chain saws.

Marion Independent Schools has contacted the department about planting trees at the new Longfellow School. This may be a possibility for a fall planting with a *Trees for Kids* grant.

Emerald Ash Borer tree injections will begin next month. In addition, trees that have been planted over the past 5 years will be inspected to check their overall health. Four memorial trees will also be planted in the next few weeks.

The proposed 13th Street tree replacement site was inspected and it was agreed with the property owners (Stewart Baxter Funeral Home) that planting of trees will be delayed for 1 to 2 years. A property owner adjacent to Starry School contacted Cimprich to request trees be planted where some have been removed. It was recommended the trees that were going to be planted on 13th Street be instead planted at the South 14th Street location adjacent to Starry School.

Letters have been sent to homeowners for the spring planting of replacement trees. Locates will be done and trees will be planted in early to mid-May.

Tormey, Cimprich and Arborist Technician Ryan Hays attended the Tree City USA luncheon last week and shared it was a very worthwhile event and the guest speaker did an excellent job of sharing information with attendees about trees.

Adjournment

Motion by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Next Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Rodney Bluml, Secretary