**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

June 14, 2017, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Scott Hansen, Marilyn Tormey, Sunshine McDonald, Rodney Bluml,

 Mark Sanderson, Tom Ryan

STAFF: Mike Carolan, Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson to approve the May 10, 2017, Tree Board minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

There was nothing new to report this month.

Review Criteria for Determining Significant Ash Trees

Cimprich presented draft #2 of the criteria document and explained this will be for the Forestry Department and Tree Board’s use. Eventually it will go out to property owners adjacent to affected Ash trees with a cover letter. Hansen suggested it also be added to the city’s web site.

The question was asked if the guidelines will be reviewed in a certain order. Cimprich advised that was not the case. Suggestions were made to the document which included eliminating numbering the criteria and using bullet points, adding language under location which states “including, but not limited to, overhead utilities, sidewalk, traffic signage etc.” It was recommended Under Treatment Cost to change it to “Chemical costs of treatment are approximately $.049/milliliter of required chemical.” Under replacement it was recommended the sentence be changed to “Replacement will be at the discretion of the City Arborist and evaluated by the Tree Board after removal of the current tree is complete.” At the bottom of the form it was recommended the word latest be eliminated for the sentence to read “All methods shall conform to the Best Management Practices (BMP) within the industry.” It was also recommended to date the criteria document in the event of price changes for chemicals. Another draft will be made available for next month’s meeting.

Tree Board Vacancy

There is only one application received for the Tree Board vacancy. The application from Mollie Lorenz was briefly discussed. Hansen advised Lorenz had taken the Tree Keeper Course with him and Cimprich added she is also on the volunteer list maintained to assist with various tree related opportunities. Moved by Hansen to recommend Mollie Lorenz to the Mayor for appointment to the Tree Board. The motion died for lack of a second. Moved by Tormey and seconded by McDonald to invite Lorenz to the next Tree Board meeting. Ayes: Bluml, Ryan, Sanderson, Tormey and McDonald. Nays: Hansen. Motion carried. Cimprich will invite Lorenz to the July meeting.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported 38 trees were planted at Waldo’s Rock Park for the One Day in May event sponsored by Alliant Energy on May 15. The spring Branching Out Grant was awarded by Alliant Energy to fund this planting. The presidents of Alliant Energy and Trees Forever were in attendance to speak to the Marion High School students about the benefit of trees. The trees were planted, staked, mulched and watered by the students and staff.

The deadline for the fall Branching Out Grant planting cycle was June 1. Cimprich advised the grant request was submitted for $7,040 to plant approximately 80 trees along Tower Terrace Road east of Tenth Street.

Carl Barnhart has been hired to replace Dustin Hinrichs with Trees Forever. Barnhart is focusing on growing the volunteer base to assist with tree plantings and other projects.

The prior year’s *Trees for Kids* planting locations have been on Tenth Street in front of Linn-Mar High School with a goal of continuing south to meet up with the trees previously planted on Tenth Street. Ken Cook of the Marion Independent Schools has requested a tree planting for the new Longfellow Elementary School, which is currently under construction. The fall Trees for Kids planting will be at Longfellow Elementary School.

Cimprich reported Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) chemical injections started approximately a week and a half ago in the parks. The window for treatment of the trees is to start in May after the trees have leafed out, and finish by the end of July before the weather gets too hot and dry.

Prairie pollinator seed mix was drilled at Lowe and Waldo’s Rock Parks. The seed mix is a high pollinator and does contain milkweed seed.

Trees Forever’s Day of Caring volunteer event at Thomas/Legion Park resulted in one full dump truck of garlic mustard and other weeds removed from wooded areas.

The Linn-Mar Senior Service Day on May 24 at Lowe Park included mulching trees, weeding flowerbeds, and trash collection.

Board Discussion Time

Tormey asked about the recent plantings at Waldo’s Rock Park and how the trees will be tracked. Cimprich advised all the information for the trees will be entered into the tree inventory program in the fall.

Future planting locations were discussed. The question was asked about new construction sites and how it impacts planning for tree plantings; planting priorities, etc. It was stated there should be a “plan on paper” with input from the Tree Board for tree planting projects. One area is the 35th Street extension.

Laurie Skogman has requested trees be planted around the Pebble Creek Drive detention basins. It was mentioned this may be done in conjunction with storm water management and suggested the Engineering Department become involved with that request. Other areas discussed included the Cardinal basin along Meadowview Drive, and the area along Abbey Road, Lennon Lane and Penny Lane. A list of all retention basins should be developed for planting recommendations. Hansen suggested planting milkweed in the basins.

Hansen also brought up cemetery mowing and suggested planting milkweed in the areas along the creek beds rather than mowing them.

Adjournment

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Tormey to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Next Meeting

The meeting will be held Wednesday, July 12, 2017, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Rodney Bluml, Secretary