**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

September 13, 2017, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Rodney Bluml, Sunshine McDonald, Mollie Lorenz, Tom Ryan, Marilyn Tormey

ABSENT: Mark Sanderson

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

It was noted in the August 9, 2017 minutes Hansen’s last name was not spelled correctly under Other Action or Discussion Items. Moved by Tormey and seconded by Lorenz to approve the August 9, 2017, Tree Board minutes as corrected. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. It was noted Shrubs was not spelled correctly for the 11/17/2016 purchase. The Alliant Energy Branching Out fall grant funds were deposited in the amount of $7,040.

Public Input

None.

Grant Updates

The *Branching Out* fall grant award of $7,040 from Alliant Energy and Trees Forever has been received and will be used to plant trees along Tower Terrace Road, east of 10th Street. The date has not been finalized for the planting as this is being coordinated by Trees Forever and participation of TransAmerica representatives.

It was noted the funds for the 2016 *Trees for Kids* grant award has not been received. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advised all the proper paperwork had been submitted and they are working to get the funds issued.

The fall 2017 *Trees for Kids* grant application was submitted by the September 1 deadline. This grant will fund trees to be planted on the west side of 10th Street adjacent to Linn Mar High School. Three Linn-Mar Ag Science classes will assist with the tree plantings scheduled for October 5; one class is at 8:30 a.m. and two afternoon classes. The trees will be in 7 to 10 gallon pots.

Lorenz stated she will check with Rockwell to see if the *Green Communities* grant program is still available as a possible funding source for tree planting projects.

Future Planting Projects

Cimprich advised letters were sent to homeowners last week regarding the Fall Street Tree Replacement Program with a deadline to response by September 14. It was noted Peck’s will be closing October 1; ten of the trees for this planting will be obtained from them. Planting of the trees could start the week of September 18.

Cimprich indicated the deadline for the Alliant Energy and Trees Forever spring *Branching Out* grant request is due November 1. Cimprich asked board members to forward suggestions for tree planting locations to him before the October meeting so they can be considered for the master list. McDonald will be working on maps for the potential tree locations and will work with Steve Cooper from the Engineering Department to complete that project.

Board Member Reappointments

McDonald advised she would like to be re-appointed to the Tree Board. The re-appointments will be forwarded to the Mayor for consideration and recommendation.

Receive and File

None.

Other Action or Discussion items

A publication from the Iowa DNR was made available to Tree Board members by Tormey outlining some volunteer events.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported staff continue to water trees and mow prairie grasses. The bucket truck was delivered; however, a few items do not meet the specifications of the purchase. These minor issues will be resolved so the truck can be put into service in a timely manner. A Black Hills Spruce was planted in the roundabout on Alburnett Road. Cimprich attended a Tree Risk Assessment/Training class to be qualified to inspect trees. He has taken the test and is waiting on those results. Breeden removed some storm damaged trees which included a large maple with a hollow core. Preparation has started for the fall planting events.

Board Discussion

McDonald advised she may miss the November Tree Board meeting.

Adjournment

Moved by Tormey, and seconded by Bluml, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

Next Meeting

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

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 Rodney Bluml, Secretary