**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

October 11, 2017, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

There were some minor wording changes to the September 13, 2017, minutes. Moved by Tormey and seconded by Sanderson to approve the September 13, 2017, Tree Board minutes as corrected. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Invoices are being processed for the fall tree plantings and two memorial trees; a new memorial tree was purchased in honor of Jake Havemen.

Public Input

None.

Future Planting Projects

Cimprich referred to a list which has potential street tree planting locations. He stressed the information can be changed and would like the assistance of the Tree Board to possible change and/or prioritize these locations. Hansen indicated he would like to have 35th Street as a top priority. The west side of the street is very wide, and due to the large area suggested it would be a good idea to plant trees further apart and fill in later as funds allow. Other potential locations discussed include South 22nd Street from Grand Avenue to the north; McGowan Boulevard from 35th Street to 44th Street and the west side of 11th Street between 9th and 10th Avenue. Mike requested members review the list and prioritize the potential planting sites for the next Tree Board meeting. The application deadline is November 1 for the Alliant Branching Out spring grant. Hansen requested Cimprich follow up with the city’s Engineering Department to find out if there was any funding for trees as a part of the 35th Street project or the Seventh Avenue Roundabout project adjacent to Sixth Avenue.

Receive and File

No items.

Other Action or Discussion Items

Cimprich advised Alliant has a spring and fall cycle for grant awards and in the past we have requested $4,000 to $5,000; however, for this fall’s cycle, we requested and were awarded $7,040. Due to the closing of Peck’s Green Thumb Nursery, some of the trees for this fall planting were purchased from Forrest Keeling Nursery from Elsberry, MO. The trees are grown using the root production method (RPM). In addition to being more affordable, the trees transplant easier and have a better survival rate. Approximately 70 to 80 trees will be planted on Tower Terrace Road to Winslow.

Tormey asked about obtaining trees from Culvers Garden Center. Cimprich advised bids were solicited from Culvers in the past and they did not respond. Cimprich said he will be soliciting bids from more vendors for future planting projects and will include Culvers again.

Cimprich noted the deadline for the MidAmerican *Trees Please* application is November 3. They require a legitimate match for the grant award which is accomplished by in-kind labor of planting and maintaining the trees. In the past, the award amount has been $1,000; however, the request will be for $2,000 for this application. Motioned by Sanderson and seconded by Tormey to proceed with the completion of this grant application to MidAmerican Energy and apply for any future grants from providers as they become available this year. All in favor, motion carried. As part of the grant discussion, Lorenz advised Rockwell does award a tree grant and provided Cimprich with the information for application.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported a burn at Faulkes Heritage Woods is not ruled out for this fall. He is working with Trees Forever to schedule upcoming volunteer work days there also.

Staff spent time watering trees; some right of way trees were removed and others were trimmed. The bucket truck specification issues have been resolved and the truck has been put into service. The street tree replacement project has been completed with 33 trees planted. Over the past two weeks park operations staff have been removing woody growth at the Lowe Park prairie.

The *Trees for Kids* planting project along Tenth Street from 29th Avenue to 33rd Avenue was started yesterday with 12 trees planted before it was rained out. Plans are to complete the planting of the remaining trees later today.

Board Discussion

Tormey stated she attended the Fruit Tree Keeper Class conducted by Trees Forever at Lowe Park.

Sanderson advised he will be absent for the January, February and March meetings.

Adjournment

Moved by Bluml, and seconded by Tormey, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Rodney Bluml, Secretary