**MARION TREE BOARD**

January 9, 2019

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Marilyn Tormey, Scott Hansen, Tom Ryan, Sunshine McDonald

ABSENT: Mollie Lorenz

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: Kate Pine, Ken Cook

Minutes

Moved by Ryan and seconded by McDonald to approve the December 12, 2018, minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Cimprich noted the *Trees for Kids* grant reimbursement has been received from the Department of Natural Resources. The question was raised on whether the Rockwell Collins Green Communities Grant is still available. Cimprich advised he had received information on it just yesterday and it is now the Collins Aerospace Grant and briefly reviewed the guidelines for the grant.

Public Input

None

New Member Discussion

Kate Pine was introduced as a potential member of the Tree Board. She shared she moved to Marion approximately 10 years ago from Pella and is interested in Marion and becoming involved in the community. She was involved in the Monarch Project, has attended Trees Forever events and by attending a 12-month course has earned the Diplomat of Earth Stewardship classification. Her work schedule would allow her to attend the monthly meetings and be involved in other Tree Board events.

Marion Independent School District Tree Removal Request

Ken Cook, Facilities Manager, Marion Independent Schools, presented a request from the school district to remove six Black Walnut trees on the right-of-way (ROW) at 1350 4th Avenue which has recently been purchased by the school district. The trees are a safety concern for children walking to school when branches and walnuts fall, and deters cars from parking along the street. The school district is in the early stages of making a determination on the area and it may be developed into green space for children. Cook shared the school district would plant trees in other areas of the property. Cimprich advised the trees are approximately 60 to 80 feet tall with trunk diameters ranging from approximately 20 to 26 inches. The trees are large for the ROW and Black Walnut trees are currently not allowed to be planted in the ROW. Cimprich advised he had obtained a quote from Breeden Tree Service for the removal of trees for $6,862. It was decided Tree Board members will view the site and a decision will be made at the February meeting.

Election of Officers

Moved by Ryan, second by McDonald to retain Tormey as Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by McDonald to retain Hansen as Vice Chair. Hansen declined.

Moved by Hansen, second by Tormey to appoint Ryan as Vice-Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Ryan, second by Tormey to appoint McDonald as Secretary. All in favor, motion carried.

The newly elected officers assumed their duties for the remainder of the meeting.

Collins Aerospace Green Communities Grant

Cimprich advised the grant application was updated the first of the year and potential award amounts range from $500 to $2,500 and shared he has a project in mind for the grant. A citizen on Battlecreek Drive, south of Lowe Park, contacted him and stated there are no trees in the right-of-way on their street. The neighborhood would like to see a tree lined street and indicated the neighbors are willing to help with the project. The possibility of the neighborhood providing matching funds was discussed. Cimprich estimates there would be 40 to 50 trees planted. It was recommended the citizen be invited to the next Tree Board meeting to discuss the project and potential neighborhood involvement.

Receive and File

Nothing

Other action or discussion items

Moved by Tormey and seconded by Ryan to recommend to the mayor appointment of Kate Pine to the Marion Tree Board. All in favor, motion carried.

Cimprich advised the Alliant Grant has been submitted with the potential award to be used for plantings along 44th Street.

Hansen provided Cimprich with a list of planting locations for South 22nd Street from First Avenue south to Grand Avenue which was an identified area for potential plantings. This would be approximately 45 trees and will be re-assessed by forestry staff.

Staff Report

Forestry staff attended the Woodland Symposium sponsored by Trees Forever. Cimprich participated in a discussion with other cities on how they are handling the Emerald Ash Borer situation in their community. The Tree City USA designation and Growth Award applications have been submitted to the Arbor Day Foundation. There have been some mechanical issues with the chipper which are being repaired; as a result, removal of Ash Trees has been slowed. Breeden Tree Service continues to perform stump grinding and dirt work from tree removals. Forestry staff attended a planting workshop sponsored by the Iowa Arborist Association on January 4, 2019. Tormey shared she had also attended the workshop. Forestry staff participated in some in-house training over the short holiday work weeks. Cimprich advised a work day at Faulkes Heritage Woods will be held on February 2, 2019, for the purpose of Barberry removals; he will forward more information to Tree Board members as it is finalized.

Board Discussion Time

Tormey advised she would like to attend the Marion State of the City Speech on January 31, 2019, sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Adjournment

Moved by Ryan and seconded by Tormey to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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