**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

June 12, 2019, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

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

Joe Spinks

ABSENT: Mollie Lorenz

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: Chris Kula

Minutes

Moved by Spinks and seconded by Ryan to approve the May 8, 2019, minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report reflects receipt of the $5,000 *Branching Out* grant award from Alliant Energy.

Request for Tree Removal at 2400 23rd Ave

Chris Kula attended the meeting to discuss the Locust tree on the right-of-way at his residence and provided further information regarding the situation. He is concerned about a large branch which overhangs the house and would like to remove the tree at his expense and plant more colorful varieties of trees in that location. He has a tree service scheduled to address trees on his property to include the large Locust tree in question. Board members shared their concerns about allowing the removal of a healthy tree and the need to be consistent with their decisions on all right-of-way trees. It was agreed the immediate issue is the large branch overhanging the house. Cimprich and Kula will meet to inspect the tree again as it relates to the large branch and overall health of the tree and decide to trim the branch or remove the tree. Cimprich will e-mail board members to inform them of the outcome of that meeting. Kula will be allowed to plant trees in the right-of-way based on recommendations from Cimprich.

Urban Forestry Performance Criteria and Goals

Cimprich shared with the board the performance goals included in their packets was for information related to Urban Forestry and is completed by all city departments. It is used as a mechanism to establish goals and assess the completion or need to adjust the goals. Members were encouraged to contact Cimprich with any questions relating to the document.

City of Marion Boards and Commissions Policy and Procedures

Cimprich reported policies and procedures are being established so departments follow guidelines to be consistent for all boards and commissions as it relates to board appointments, minutes and other matters. It was determined Parks and Recreation has been following policies and procedures similar to City Council for many years and is not an issue.

Receive and File

Nothing received.

Other Action/Discussion Items

The question was raised if there are any repercussions for removal of a right-of-way tree without approval. Cimprich shared to his knowledge this has not occurred and the majority of tree companies contact him with any issues. Per city ordinance the owner of a property can be billed for the cost of a tree if removed without permission. The recommendation was made the Tree Board and Urban Forestry Division attend the Marion Uptown Market next season to share information with citizens and possibly make tree seedlings available.

Staff Report

Included in the packet for this month was a report generated by the Urban Forestry Division for May which outlines activities for the month. This report will partially replace the monthly review of activities reported by Cimprich at the meetings. Cimprich highlighted items on the monthly report, 18 acres of prairie grasses were planted at Lowe Park and along Tower Terrace Road; the addition to the Lowe Park storage facility is underway which will partially be used to house Urban Forestry equipment. Fifty trees were planted along 44th Street as part of the One day in May event. Hansen requested trees be planted along South 22nd Street from Grand Avenue to First Street to finish the project which was started a few years ago. Cimprich shared the budget for tree replacement in the Urban Forestry Division budget has been increased from $7,500 to $18,000, primarily to assist with the replacement of Ash trees.

Adjournment

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Spinks to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 10, 2019, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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Sunshine McDonald, Secretary