**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

July 10, 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

Minutes

Moved by Ryan and seconded by Pine to approve the June 12, 2019, minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report reflects the expenditure of $5,000 from the Alliant Energy *Branching Out* grant to purchase 50 trees from Fleming Nursery planted on 44th Street.

Public Input

None

FY 2019-20 Tree Budget Review

Cimprich outlined the planned expenditures for trees for the current budget year. After much discussion, Spinks recommended the Tree Board take a more active part in the budget process in an effort for the Marion City Council to understand the need for funds. It was recommended the board have the discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

Tree Plantings Winchester Drive and 29th Avenue

There was discussion at a recent city council meeting about the lack of trees along Winchester Drive and 29th Avenue as there is substantial development in that area and a lot of open space. The board was not in favor of delaying scheduled planting plans to respond to new requests. The overall 29th Avenue area was previously added to the scheduled planting plans. The board then discussed the potential change in ordinance to require developers plant trees in the right-of way in new developments.

Other Action or Discussion Items

It was recommended the tree in the right-of-way at 339 9th Street be inspected for trimming.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported the home owner at 2400 23rd Avenue (Chris Kula) did have the tree in the right-of-way trimmed at his expense per the agreed stipulation and was given permission to plant two additional trees in the right-of-way.

Two equipment issues were determined to be manufacturing defects and the responsibility of the equipment vendors and were repaired at no cost to the city.

Cimprich is working with McDonald and others on developing a GIS tree inventory system.

Klein Walker was hired as a full time position in the Urban Forestry Department effective July 1, 2019.

Board Discussion Time

The question was raised about private tree care businesses performing work in the city and what qualifications they have to do tree work. Cimprich advised they are not required to be licensed through the city, however to obtain a permit to perform work on right- of- way trees, they are required to provide proof of insurance. He also advised most of the area tree services know they need to contact him before performing any tree work on right- of -way trees. It was stated many citizens are not aware the city has the responsibility for care of right-of-way trees.

Adjournment

Moved by Spinks and seconded by McDonald 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, August 14, 2019, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Sunshine McDonald, Secretary