**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

January 10, 2018, 7:00 A.M.

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Scott Hansen, Marilyn Tormey, Rodney Bluml, Tom Ryan

ABSENT: Mark Sanderson, Mollie Lorenz, Sunshine McDonald

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: Carole Teator, Eastern Iowa Program Manager,

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Minutes

The December 13, 2017, minutes were reviewed. Tormey noted the word basin was not correct as it related to offering classes to homeowners and was suggested the word be changed to basic. Moved by Bluml, and seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes as corrected. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Cimprich noted expenditures for December since the last meeting were for Memorial Tree plaques and briefly reviewed the procedure and material used for adhering the plaques to the rock bases.

Public Input

None.

Election of Officers

Moved by Ryan, second by Bluml to retain Hansen as Chair.

Moved by Tormey, second by Hansen to appoint Tormey as Chair.

Moved by Ryan, second by Bluml to table Election of Chair and Vice Chair to the next meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Bluml, second by Tormey to recommend whoever does not get elected as Chair be appointed Vice Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Bluml, second by Tormey to retain Bluml as Secretary. All in favor, motion carried.

44th Street Right-of-Way Tree Request

The representative for the Pheasant Trail Homeowners Association was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a letter outlining their request for trees to be planted along 44th Street. The trees would not be planted on the side streets of Spoonbill Court, Merganser Court, and Mallard Court as those properties are owned by the condo association. The potential area would be a three block area and involve approximately 12 trees. The question was asked if the association would be contributing to the project and it was suggested a member of the condo association board attend the February meeting to discuss the request further. Moved by Tormey, and seconded by Ryan to recommend the planting of trees along 44th Avenue as a Tree Board project. All in favor, motion carried. Bluml commented it is encouraging to receive citizen input on tree plantings throughout the city.

Faulkes Heritage Woods Work Days

Carole Teator of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation shared information relating to their multi-year partnership with AmeriCorps to assist with work to be completed at Faulkes Heritage Woods. The workers from AmeriCorps are associated with the Center for Energy Efficiency and Environment from the University of Northern Iowa. The leaders of the crews have been associated with AmeriCorps for a number of years. Work days at Faulkes Woods are planned in February for the removal of maples and barberries with a small crew. A larger event is being planned to take place June or July with a larger crew of approximately 20 to 40 individuals. The United Day of Caring on May 10 may be another opportunity to have work done at Faulkes Woods. The question of a prescribed burn was raised; Cimprich advised there may be a small one in the spring.

Rockwell Green Communities Grant

Cimprich advised the application paperwork for this grant was just made available with an end of February deadline for submission. In review of past grant awards, they range from $400 to $4,000 with quite a few local communities benefitting from the grant. The focus of the grant was discussed with the possibility of using the current master list of tree needs, the newly identified 44th Street tree plantings, or street tree replacements. It was noted the current list of street tree replacements would amount to approximately $4,000-$5,000 with the MidAmerican Energy *Trees Please* grant funds used for those trees. Bluml recommended a project be identified as a new initiative for the Rockwell grant.

It was recommended to add to the grant request the utilizing Rockwell employees for volunteer opportunities. Moved by Tormey, and second by Ryan to direct staff to proceed with the application process for the Rockwell Green Communities Grant. All in favor, motion carried.

Shade Tree Short Course

Cimprich provided information for the Shade Tree Short Course presented at Iowa State University in Ames February 20 to 22 and shared it hosts excellent workshops and speakers.

Receive & File

None

Other action or discussion items

Hansen advised he was notified that $2,000 has been awarded from MidAmerican for the *Trees Please* grant, which is double the amount of the previous awards.

Cimprich shared information about a presentation sponsored by the Bur Oak Land Trust on March 1st in Iowa City with the guest speaker, Mark Hirsch, author of *That Tree.* The event will also include information and displays from local environmental organizations and agencies.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported the Tree City USA and Growth Award applications have been submitted and notification received they were forwarded to the Arbor Day Foundation.

The 2018 Tree City USA Awards Luncheon is scheduled for April 4. More information will be forwarded as it is received.

Maintenance work has been completed on the tree chipper and chainsaws.

Board Discussion Time

Hansen formally requested the dead tree on the right-of-way be removed from the property on the corner of Blairsferry Road and Northland Ave, N.E. The Mexican restaurant on the property has recently closed and it was recommended it would be a good time for the tree to be removed.

Tormey shared she will be attending the State of the City luncheon on February 25.

Adjournment

Moved by Bluml, and seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 14, 2018, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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Rodney Bluml, Secretary