**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

May 9, 2018

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Chair Marilyn Tormey, Scott Hansen, Rodney Bluml, Mollie Lorenz,

Mark Sanderson

ABSENT: Tom Ryan, Sunshine McDonald

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: Kesha Billings, City of Marion Planning Department

Minutes

Motion by Lorenz and seconded by Tormey to approve the April 11, 2018 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Cimprich advised

Public Input

None

***Trees Please!*** MidAmerican Energy Grant

Greg Wildebour of MidAmerican Energy presented a check in the amount of $2,000 from the annual grant which is a substantial increase from previous awards. The monies will be used for street tree replacements. Wildebour encouraged the Tree Board to continue to increase the grant award requests as Marion continues to grow and has established a Forestry Division to manage trees in the community. A press release will be developed to share the information about this grant award from MidAmerican with the community through the *Marion Times*, city newsletter and the city’s Facebook page.

Tree Replacement List

Cimprich reviewed the list of prospective locations for street tree replacements for this year which will be an increase compared to the number planted last year. More plantings will be done as funds allow. Trees will be planted using the RPM (Root Production Method) in which trees are a smaller and a lighter variety.

***Green Communities Grant*** (Rockwell Collins)

Cimprich advised $1,000 has been awarded from this new opportunity for funding. The grant request was for $1,500. A positive response was received from Rockwell for the application. The funds will be used for part of the plantings at the south entrance of Lowe Park off of Irish Drive. The grant is not specific to trees and will also include perennial plants and prairie grasses.

April 27 – Arbor Day Celebration

The annual Arbor Day celebration will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 27, and will include the ***Trees for Kids*** program. Approximately 125 trees were provided by the DNR State Nursery to be planted around the detention basin on Bell Boy Drive and Echo Hill Road (Hunters Ridge area). Five variety of trees will be planted, protectors installed, staked, and mulched. Trees Forever is getting volunteers to help with the event. This will be a plant 1, take 1 event and will be a way for citizens to be involved and obtain trees.

May 5 – City Showcase

The City of Marion is hosting a City Showcase on Saturday, May 5at City Park. All city departments will be there with tables, booths and equipment to provide information to the community. The bucket truck will be at the event and tree information will be made available.

May 14 – One Day in May

Marion High School’s One Day in May event will use funds from the Alliant Energy ***Branching Out*** springgrantfor tree plantings. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will involve planting approximately 57 trees in 15 gallon containers along 35th Street and north of 35th Avenue to Tower Terrace Road.

Receive & File – 2017 Attendance Record

This report was for information purposes and is provided on an annual basis.

Other Action or discussion items

None

Staff Report

Cimprich reported 8 acres of prairie grasses were burned at Lowe Park on April 10 with plans to do an additional burn later today. The burn involved the Fire Department and park staff only and started at around noon and ended at 4:00 p.m. Small areas were done at a time and there were perfect wind conditions for the burn. The grasses are burned for maintenance purposes. It was also reported the Living Landscapes seminar was held at Lowe Park with approximately 100 attendees. Cimprich and Hays completed video training for working around utilities and rigging training. Cimprich also received prescribed certification for burning. Pruning was done on fruit trees at Lowe Park which suffered deer damage; the pruning will encourage better structural growth. Newly planted trees which were bent from frozen rain the first part of March received attention and it appears there will be no long lasting impact from the ice. Ash trees in the right-of-way along Grand Avenue adjacent to Ascension Church were removed. They were dead or dying and smaller in diameter. It was noted that Cedar Rapids has found a large infestation of the Ash borer. They identified over 200 trees that were involved, however EAB has not been found in Marion yet. Brush on 29th Avenue was cleared south of LinnMar. Seeding will be done in the spring with the pollinator initiative. Cimprich advised they assisted the city Sewer Department in removing Willow trees from the detention basin at Sunburst and 35th Street. There were more dead than live trees and will be replaced with evergreens. They also assisted the Water Department with brush clean up on 31st Street. Cimprich advised he is completing work orders for Breeden. Cimprich shared there had been some repair issues on the new aerial truck and a recall for the truck with repair parts on order.

Board Discussion Time

McDonald asked if any action has been taken on the option of using LiDar (Light Detection and Ranging) technology. Cimprich advised he has not looked into it any further and McDonald stated she also had not done anything further with the information.

Adjournment

Moved by Ryan, and seconded by McDonald to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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Rodney Bluml, Secretary