**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, 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 the monies from the *Trees Please* grant award from MidAmerican Energy had been received.

Public Input

None

South 15th Street and Suggested Trail Tree Plantings

Associate Planner Kesha Billings had contacted Cimprich about planting trees along South 15th Street as part of a new Safe Routes to School Trail project currently under development.  A Wellmark MATCH grant was awarded in the amount of $100,000 to the City of Marion for a trail in the Marion Independent School District, which covers the smallest school geographic area in the state. The City will receive the funding and is required to match the same amount, which can be in-kind or professional services.  The purpose of the grant award is to create a campus feel for students and create a Safe Routes to School Trail between the schools.  As identified in the adopted Safe Routes to Schools Plan, trees are encouraged in the right-of-way to create a tree canopy to calm traffic along the streets. The trees would be planted on the west side of South 15th Street to First Avenue.  Billings briefly reviewed the City’s Master Trails Plan and upcoming projects which will include trail construction from 31st to 35th Street, 35th Street to Highway 13 and completion of the CeMar Trail south of Highway 100 up to the Sixth Avenue right-of-way south of Country Kitchen.  Cimprich indicated there is potential to plant 20 to 22 trees on the west side of South 15th Street.  It was motioned by Lorenz and seconded by Sanderson to add 20 to 22 trees on South 15th Street to the Street Tree Replacement Program for the Safe Routes to School Trail project.   Motion carried with one opposition by Hansen.  Cimprich will check into utility easements on the right-of-way for the plantings.

Alliant Energy’s Fall Branching Out Grant Project

Cimprich stated there is a June 1 deadline for submission of the Alliant Energy Fall *Branching Out* grant request and is asking the board to recommend planting locations. Suggested locations included 35th Street north to 35th Avenue and would be ideal to continue working to Lucore Road. Motioned by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen to continue the plantings on 35th Street south to 29th Avenue for the trees to remain consistent in size with trees recently planted in the area. All in favor, motion carried.

Winslow Road Tree Request

A citizen contacted staff about the possibility of planting trees along Winslow Road. The back yard of the property is along Flagstaff. Cimprich advised plantings would only be recommended on one side of Winslow Road as it is a rural ditch area. The citizen could apply and plant the trees as a private planting in the right of way. Once Tower Terrace Road is completed (approximately five years), Winslow Road could be added to the tree planting list. It was motioned by Tormey and seconded by Bluml to add Winslow Road plantings to the tree planting list with a low priority for those plantings. All in favor, motion carried.

Marion High School’s One Day in May Project

The One Day in May project is scheduled for Monday, May 14at 9:00 a.m. for the planting of trees from 35th Street to the roundabout as part of the Alliant Energy Spring *Branching Out* grant funding. Plans are to plant 57 trees with the assistance of 20 to 30 Marion High School students. The rain date is Tuesday, May 15. Cimprich encouraged any interested board member who would like to participate to meet at the intersection of 35th Avenue and 35th Street.

Receive and File

None

Staff Report

A concerned citizen had contacted city hall regarding a tree on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Seventh Street expressing his opinion there is site obstruction for traffic traveling north through the intersection. There is a large healthy Silver Maple approximately 120 feet west of the intersection and Cimprich advised he could see no violation of standards or obstruction of the intersection. Cimprich wanted board members to be made aware of the potential issue. Sixty trees were mulched at Lowe Park and 58 trees planted along Bellboy Drive and the adjacent detention basin as part of an Arbor Day project on April 27. Trees were planted with demonstrations at Longfellow School (in the rain) as part of the Marion Schools *Trees for Kids* event. Cimprich was the guest speaker at the Marion Noon Lions Club and shared information on the city’s Urban Forestry program and the Emerald Ash Borer. Another 15 acres of prairie grass were burned at Lowe Park with the assistance of the Fire Department. The burn went smoothly

and at this time there are no future burns scheduled. The trees planted along Tenth Street and Boyson are showing stress due to the soil conditions. At this time, they are adding compost to the base of the trees and then will top with mulch to establish better soil for the trees. Upcoming projects include United Way Day of Caring at Legion Park on May 10, a Garlic Mustard Pull at Faulkes Woods on May 12and LinnMar Senior Service Day on May 23.  The City Showcase was held at City Park on May 5 with information being shared with citizens about different city departments and included Urban Forestry as part of the Parks Department information. The large forestry bucket truck was also on display. All the recall items on the bucket truck have been fixed. Work continues on Ash Tree removals throughout the city.

Board Discussion Time

Tormey reported she has received the Tree Keeper designation and has been invited to the Trees Forever office to meet them and become familiar with their operations.

It was suggested the newly planted Peace Tree at City Park may need to be removed.

Adjournment

Moved by Sanderson and seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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Rodney Bluml, Secretary