**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

July 11, 2018

Thomas Park Safe Room

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

Tom Ryan, Sunshine McDonald

ABSENT: Mark Sanderson

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: Joe & Shari Funck

Minutes

Motion by Ryan and seconded by Bluml to approve the June 13, 2018 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report was received and filed. Cimprich advised a memorial tree was purchased for John Hobbs and the MidAmerican grant award for street trees is to be processed.

Public Input

None

Tree Removal Request

Joe and Shari Funck, 1605 Grand Avenue, are requesting a right-of-way (ROW) tree be removed at their property. They provided a handout and shared information pertaining to the tree; and stated their concern is the tree is a safety hazard due to the size of the trunk, which creates a blind spot when they are backing out of their driveway. They are requesting the city remove the tree. Cimprich advised it is a healthy Honey Locust and per state and city regulations, the tree is not considered a hazard and the ROW area is larger than found on most properties. The benefits of trees to the community was discussed. Mr. and Mrs. Funck were advised they would be contacted regarding the tree and left the meeting.

Some of the board members advised they would like to look at the tree and area and would let Cimprich know their recommendation. Tormey and Hansen already viewed the tree and recommended the tree not be removed.

Cedar Rapids EAB Open House

Cimprich shared he attended an open house to provide information on the Emerald Ash Borer which included representatives from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Iowa State Extension, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and local foresters and arborists. There were some findings over the last three months of ash trees near Blairsferry and Center Point Roads which were found to have been infested with the borer. An open house for the general public will be held at Ellis Park on Tuesday, July 17 to provide information regarding the EAB tree situation to local residents. Cimprich stated the DNR has released biological control on a small scale to slow down the spread of the disease. Marion has removed over 70 trees; and is currently chemically treating 35 ROW and 70 park trees. The cost of treating trees is significant and it needs to be determined if

budgeting for long term treatment is a wise use of resources. Staff are evaluating plans to

continue chemical treatments. At this point, Urban Forestry Utility funds are being budgeted for mass removal of ash trees.

Trees for Kids Grant Application

The deadline for the grant application is September 1. A possible planting location recommended would be to continue north along Tenth Street to Tower Terrace Road. It was motioned by Hansen and seconded by McDonald to submit the grant application for plantings to continue along Tenth Street, north of 33rd Avenue. All in favor, motion carried.

Cimprich has also reached out to Marion schools to suggest they submit a Trees for Kids Grant application to plant trees along South 15th Street which would provide the trees needed for the Safe Routes to School program. At this point Marion schools has not responded to Cimprich.

Receive and File

None.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported more Ash removals have been completed. The fall Alliant Energy *Branching Out* grant request was submitted. There were 20 street tree replacements, 4 acres of pollinator prairie planted at Waldo’s Rock Park and 6 acres of the pollinator prairie planted along the 29th Avenue basin south of the Linn-Mar track and field complex. The AmeriCorps work days on June 20 through June 22at Faulkes Heritage Woods were successful. Some of the work tasks included re-lining and extending the trail with logs and removal of barberry. The community volunteer day in conjunction with the AmeriCorps workers on Saturday, June 23 had approximately 25 citizens participating where they assisted with removing barberry. There has been an increase in tree concerns due to heavy rains for loose limbs, limbs down and other issues. Breeden is in the process of completing work orders and doing stump removals. The question was raised about the department acquiring a stump grinder and Cimprich advised it has been looked into but has not been a budget priority.

Board Discussion Time

Hansen stated he noticed some of the trees planted in prior years as part of the street tree replacement program have died. He asked if they will be replaced. Cimprich advised he has increased the budget for tree replacements and is in the process of getting a list of trees planted in the last three years and will evaluate those trees.

Adjournment

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Tormey to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 8, 2018, 7:00 a.m. at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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Rodney Bluml, Secretary