**MARION TREE BOARD MINUTES**

January 8, 2020

Thomas Park Safe Room

ROLL CALL: Marilyn Tormey, Scott Hansen, Kate Pine, Joe Spinks, Sunshine McDonald

ABSENT: Mollie Lorenz, Tom Ryan

STAFF: Mike Cimprich, Pat Carlson

GUESTS: None

Minutes

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Pine to approve the November 13, 2019 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

The December budget report was reviewed. It is the “slow” season and there are no expenses out of the ordinary. Breeden did complete many tree removals which were invoiced and paid in December. The question was raised about the removal of trees in the cemetery. Plans are to complete those when possible and make the wood available to interested parties to repurpose or recycle. It was found the battery for the chipper was out of warranty. Spinks suggested a different type of battery may be a solution and Cimprich will check into the recommendation.

Public Input

None.

Election of Officers

Moved by Pine, second by Spinks to retain Tormey as Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

Moved by Pine, second by McDonald to retain Ryan as Vice-Chair. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Code of Ethics Policy Review

The City Clerk has asked each City board to annually review the Code of Ethics Policy. Board members signed the policy at the time it was adopted or at their appointment. Members were encouraged to contact the department if they had any questions or comments.

State of the City Invite (January 23)

Members were reminded to contact the Parks office if they would like to attend the Mayor’s annual State of the City Presentation and Luncheon on January 23. Some members have already signed up for the event.

2019 Attendance Record

For information purposes, the Tree Board meetings attendance record was made available. As part of this review, the day and time of meetings was discussed. The current day and time does cause some conflicts for members. Moved by Pine and second by Tormey to change the monthly Tree Board meetings to the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Other Action or Discussion Items

Hansen noted the Walnut trees by Vernon Middle School were trimmed and look good.

Cimprich advised the FY 2020-21 budget proposal has been submitted. An increase was requested in contracts to focus on Ash tree removals performed by Breeden and additional funds were requested for the purchase of trees. Additional equipment and staff will also be necessary. The monthly Urban Forestry utility fee included on water bills is proposed to be raised from $2.25 to $3.00 bi-monthly. City Council has the final say on that request.

The question was raised about the status of modifying the requirements for tree planting in new developments. It was noted City Council did give direction to the Planning Department to complete work on this issue. Cimprich advised he will check on the status and report back at the February meeting.

The question was raised on whether a presentation should be made to City Council covering the issue of replacement trees. Cimprich advised he did not feel it was necessary because the budget proposal submitted covers all aspects of Urban Forestry activities and needs to complete work scheduled.

Staff Report

Cimprich reported staff concentrated on removing 54 Ash trees west of 35th Street, north of Willowood to 29th Avenue. The goal was to remove 25% of the Ash trees and nearly 27% of the trees have been removed. This includes the work performed by Breeden. A majority of tree removals are completed by Forestry staff.

Adjournment

Moved by McDonald and seconded by Tormey to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the Thomas Park Safe Room.

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 Sunshine McDonald, Secretary