



Tree Commission meeting minutes - August 2008

Meeting date: 19 August 2008

Present: Christine Penney, Jim Larson, Louise Levy, Brian Allen, Margie Preus, Kelly Fleissner - ex officio.

Absent: Ethan Perry (excused), John Doberstein, Rob Marohn, Rick Gitar

Call to order: 7:04 pm

Minutes approved: June, July.

Trees in the news

- Penney: Minnetonka tree ordinance (2 articles)
- Levy: How will we fund our urban forest?
- Allen: Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin (200 miles from Duluth)
- Larsen: 300 year old witness tree blew down (Maryland?)
- Preus: 9,000 year-old spruce discovered in Sweden; July 13th DNT article on 2007 Tree scaping award winners

Forester's monthly report

- All temporary and seasonal employees laid off
- Net loss of one permanent employee
- Most tree work is done in fall, winter, and early spring, so the impact to the 2008-2009 work plan is huge.
- It's impossible to predict what will come next
- Dutch elm disease: every area with elm trees is showing signs of DED. Mild winters? Pole-sized elm in forests providing host to disease?
- Emerald Ash Borer is 200 miles from Duluth

City Website

- there is a new e-mail to update Tree Commission website:
webupdate@duluthmn.gov

Tree Scaping Awards

- 3 self nominations came from the July 13th DNT article: Gloria and Leif Brush (2909 Jefferson Court) Paula Schweiger (344 East Owatana); David Yount (3000 London Road)
- 2007 award winners now posted on TC website
- Nominations tour: August 26th, 5pm. Meet at Margi's house.



- Other nominations:
 - o Business nomination from _____ : Central Entrance Burger King
 - o Christine Penney's nomination: Ridgeview Drive
 - o Harborview development?

Tree Ordinance

- Reinert meeting re-scheduled to August 22nd
- We should promote this as a revenue source for Duluth
- Christine has not yet contacted Wendy Sjoblom
- Jim Larson still plans to set up a meeting with Sharla Gardner
- Christine has not yet contacted the Lloyd K Johnson Foundation about a grant to pay for the brochure
- Photo contest on hold

Other business

- Jim and his wife are concerned about the possible loss of wooded area at Central High School if the school district follows through with the Red Plan. They have an idea to gather people to advocate for retention of some public access, a restaurant or two, etc.

Meeting adjourned: 8:01 PM