

Duluth Tree Commission
Meeting Minutes
Sept. 15, 2009 at 7 p.m.
Rm 106A – 1st floor

Meeting called to order – 7:17

Present: Brian, Kelly, Christine, Jim, Margi
Absent: Ethan, Rick, Deb

August minutes approved.

Trees in the news

- U of M study suggests that later in the century forests in MN will have changed due to climate change

Forester Report

- lot of trees are losing their leaves really early/ what's happening, Kelly thinks, is a leaf disease, elms, apples, ash,
- Kelly passed out the summary results of ash inventory- high priority ash trees number at about 5,000, but there are far more in the city—50,000? 100,000?

Old Business

- Judy Gibbs was hired in the one green corps position we secured
- City attorney? unknown
- UDC meeting Thursday night—Christine will attend.
- Park point/sky Harbor
- - Jim reported on the 2 alternatives:
 1. (alternative 12) shifting runway about 600' toward the city 2,600' runway (used to be 3,000+(using dredge fill) would affect 7 trees in SNA/ 193 trees total; 34 pines
 2. (alternative 13) rotate runway a little bit, same length (2,600') ; impacts 43 trees; 2 trees w/in SNA.
- is there an option to use it as a seaplane only? doesn't seem like a possibility
- Topping. the offer to "only" top the trees is bogus, since red and white pine will probably die anyway.
- Kelly brought up the point that a few trees are cut, then the trees around those trees die, then the trees around those trees die, and so on, which can/will be devastating
- environmental assessment will begin later this fall; public comment will come during that process; Jim will keep us apprised on the process and the time table.
- we will compile a list of questions for the airport.
- when E.A. comes out, they should know exactly what trees are affected, since on our tour we only got a very general view of the area, with not much specificity.

UDC meeting Thursday Sept. 17, 2009 / Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

