

September 14, 2008 Tree commission minutes

Present: Brian Allen, Jim Larsen, Rick Gitar, Kelly Fleissner, Christine Penney, Margi Preus

Absent: Ethan Perry, Rob Marohn, John Doberstein

Call to order: 7:03

August minutes approved

Trees in the news:

- Penney – elm resistant trees dying (MN horticultural news); Kelly says old varieties are getting Dutch elm, but not the newer varieties.

Forester's monthly report

- lay off is complete; working w/a skeleton crew; will try to take advantage of every opportunity for pruning, etc. maybe in winter, if there isn't too much snow.
- possibility of having a volunteer crew to do pruning; Rick and Jim and Brian expressed interest.
- Judy Gibbs has a good system of getting and maintaining volunteers for work on trails. Christine will call and Jim will talk to her about applying her method to getting pruning volunteers.
- grooming ski trails should be up to par or nearly so. Discussion about DNR ski permit vs. a city permit (DNR is probably a better deal-\$5,000-\$6,000/yr) However, a city park pass could be sold w/o losing the DNR revenue, so that has potential to increase revenue for city trails. Enforcement is an issue.
- discussion of designated funds for boulevard trees (memorials, etc.)
- Kelly talked about the Lakeview Drive project which was a partnership of city and neighborhood—trees planted in median.
- bare root trees are becoming used more in cities—a way has been developed to hold them all summer; and this will probably make tree planting cheaper and more successful.
- PR issues—discussion of the possibility of having an article related to local tree issues in the DNT 1 x/month. Kelly mentioned Int'l Society of Arboriculture as a place that may have articles to use in part.
- Margi will talk to Candace Renalls about this.

A motion was made to postpone election of officers and assignment of tasks until October.

Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation is interested in funding environmental education, but maybe not the brochure

10,000 brochures cost \$900 +; \$200+ for Call Before you Cut card (to North shore residents)

- due Oct. 1: Fund for the Environment - \$2,000 maximum. Perhaps they will fund the brochure and the card
- Four Cedars Fund - \$1,000 max

- Christine will send out a letter of inquiry to these foundations
- Kelly will send Christine Amy Norris' email address

Tree-scaping Awards

- we viewed photos of the three nominees that we toured in August and voted thusly:
- formal -Schweiger
- eclectic – Leif Brush
- natural/naturalizing – Dave Yount

note: Jim Larsen is doing a forestry education day on the 24th w/5th graders—and needs a sawmiller (has a sawmill)

meeting adjourned at 8:20