

Urban Forest Commission Minutes

19 July 2016

Members Present: Christine Penney, Barbara Stark, Jim Lemmerman, Liz Johnson, Jacob Shaw, Dale Sellner.

Others Present: Ann Redelfs, Myrna Matthews, Jan, Louise Levy, Joel Sipress, John Ramos, Jodi Slick.

The UFC did not have a quorum present so no official business was conducted.

Forester's Report: Dale reported on Scott Keenan Park, a vacant, City-owned lot at 40th Ave. E and Dodge Street. The City received a grant to clean up the site. 6-7 houses will be built on the site. Some spruce trees were removed for the development and new trees will be planted.

The Skyline Viewshed Task Force is finished. They met and made recommendations and hired a contractor. There are 7 official overlooks.

The reconstruction of 4th Street is just getting started, later than anticipated. The construction will only get as far as 14th Ave. E this summer. Dale has concerns about getting the trees planted that are designated for the 4th St. project. The trees won't survive the winter in the gravel bed.

Christine reported on her conversations with Linda Cadotte, the Superior, WI Parks manager. She will let us know if Linda is available to meet with us August 8 and discuss Superior's approach to EAB management.

General concern was voiced about the meeting minutes, meeting agendas, and meeting notifications on the City website. Meetings should be posted 3 days prior to the meeting and apparently this is not happening.

Possibilities for an Arbor Day event continue to evolve. Recent suggestions include hosting EAB events in Lincoln Park and Spirit Valley to educate the public on this issue. Mike plans to talk to Bent Paddle Brewing regarding an Arbor Day event. Jim expressed some discomfort with promoting beer.

Daniel and Sue Coda presented ideas and information on the utilization of ash lumber. They encourage the City to develop a program to access forest ash before and after EAB infestation so as to proactively plan for the loss of trees, reap potential financial benefit from the sale of lumber and have a replacement plan in place for the lost forest trees. A lot of ash could be harvested now and moved and treated at the thermal modification plant in Eveleth before a county-wide quarantine is imposed. Planting the forest understory now before so many trees are gone will help to protect the watershed. Lengthy discussion was had regarding these ideas as well as the serious need, voiced by Dale, for a City Forester.

Joel inquired about the review process for the EAB management plan, noting that it has been tabled by the City Council and his concern that there be a plan in place so staff is ready to act when necessary. The UFC will defer review of this plan and some proposed language revision until the August meeting.

Jim made a motion, seconded by Barbara, to adjourn.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Stark.

