

Urban Forest Commission

Meeting Minutes April 19, 2017

Attendance:

Commissioners: Chair - Christine Penney, Vic Chair - Liz Johnson, Clark Christenson, Beth Peterson, Mike Pennington, Janet Nelson

City Staff: Erik Birkeland, Dale Sellner, Steven Robertson

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:00.

Minute Approval:

The minutes from the March 21st, 2017 meeting as amended.

Forester's Report

EAB Plan

1. Woodland will be the first neighborhood to start injecting and removing trees. It was noted that May & June wouldn't be the best time to start removals or trimming.
2. EAB awareness should be starting soon. A sub-committee of the UFC should meet with Administration to develop a communication plan. The plan should include:
 - A. Training neighborhood spotters to report infestations to the City.
 - B. Include information on how private parties should safely dispose of infected trees.
 - C. Inform the Public that all removals and trimming needs to be done by a licensed tree professional.
3. Work out the ability for residents to fund tree injections in the City boulevard by a licensed tree service. The plan should include how to record trees that are treated.
4. Erik Birkeland will communicate with the City's IT Department on the availability of software and hardware to best track and record EAB infestations, treatments, and removals.

EAB Ash Grants

Dale suggested applying for grants to fund replacing the removed trees on a one for one basis...All removed trees will be replaced. Funding will initially come from the general fund, however this strategy isn't sustainable. There is a Stream Corps grant available to under plant the Ash Trees in the Miller Creek watershed. Applying for grants is an EAB and storm water management priority.

New Business:

Engineering Report

Steven Robertson from Planning was invited to share their process of implementing the City's Unified Development Chapter (UDC) and zoning laws. Key points include:

1. In an effort to control storm water runoff and protect property values; Planning requires that landscape plans be submitted during the permitting process to review UDC compliance. The tree specific section

of the UDC is: UDC 50-25. This section used to include single family resident dwellings. Do to lash back and the ability to enforce the UDC it was made exempt in 2011. They implemented revisions in 2016.

2. Enforcement of the requirements of the UDC is challenging. Planning has implemented a strategy of holding money in escrow on larger projects for a year to review if the landscape plan was followed and monitor the success/survival of the landscape elements. They would like some assistance on identifying sustainable and suitable plantings for the area to increase plant survival. They also solicited suggestions for recommending suitable handout to give to permit applicants.
3. Planning receives approximately 10 Tree Preservation Plans annually.

UFC Action Plan for Planning's UDC Plan

1. Recommend the UFC's priorities for Planning's UDC.
2. Review past recommendations that appear to not be covered by the current UDC.
3. Locate the Tree Ordinance and determine if the UDC supersedes it.

Old Business

Emerald Ash Borer Plan

Will be covered in the Forester's Report, please see above.

Arbor Day

There is a Spring Arbor Day celebration being planned with the League of Women Voters. It will be held in the Green Room at the Main Library on May 20th at 2:00 p.m. Here are some key points:

1. John Schimdt will be the Master of Ceremonies.
2. There are skits planned and a presentation from the Anishinabe.
3. A Tree Stewardship Award will be presented.
4. The UFC needs to coordinate with Pakoe Ly on communications.
5. Equilibrium 3 should be invited to the event for their work on City Forestry issues.

Skyline Parkway

1. Parks maintenance will finish Enger Tower site.
2. They plan to move east to the 500 block this summer.
3. It was recommended that they review the Task Force's recommendation, evaluate the success rate of plantings, and determine if additional cuttings are needed.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17. m/s/c