

Urban Forest Commission

Meeting Minutes September 20, 2017

Attendance:

Commissioners: Mike Pennington, Judy Gibbs, Christine Penney, Beth Kleinke, Liz Johnson, Susan Stanich, Jim Lemmerman

City Staff: Clark Christenson, City Forester; Erik Birkeland, Ex-Officio

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:00.

Minute Approval:

The minutes from the August 16th, 2017, were approved.

Forester's Report

EAB

1. Ash tree removals will begin the first week in October. The trees that will be removed will be marked with a red X and residence have been notified.
2. The injection that were slated for 2017 have been completed.
3. Christine Penny informed the Commission of two U.S. Forest Grants.
 - A. The MN DNR wrote a grant for the City of Duluth for \$200,000 to plant 500 trees in Lincoln Park & Woodland neighborhood.
 - B. The second grant is for \$100,000 to plant 8000 seedlings in the upper reaches of the Miller Creek watershed. The seedlings would be planted by Community Action of Duluth.
4. There was a discussion about contracting with commercial loggers for bulk tree removals. This has been done in other municipalities with success. Beth Peterson will work with Clark Christenson to determine if this is a strategy that the City would like to implement.

New Business:

1. Discussions surrounding a large Spruce Tree at 10th Avenue West and Skyline Boulevard, prompted the Commission to seek out if there is a policy to determine the protocol for removing trees specifically for enhancing views. If there isn't a policy, the Commission determined that it would be helpful to guide their decisions on determining future tree removals. It was decided by the Commission that the Spruce Tree will remain.

Old Business

NBC Community Service

Brandon Van Tassel from Duluth Stream Corps reported on the planting project that was completed by the National Bank of Commerce. 2500 trees were planted near Indian Point on the Western Waterfront Trail. There was a wide variety of species planted. The Duluth Stream Corps plans to track the survival rate of the planted trees. It was noted that the Commission should identify preselected sites for future group planting projects.

New Member Recruitment

1. Jim Lemmerman is rejoining the Commission. He is scheduled to be on the Commission until 2019.
2. The Commission is still 2 people short.

Comprehensive Plan

Judy Gibbs will review the current plan and compare it to the old plan. The Commission formed a sub-committee to review the proposed changes to the comprehensive plan. The sub-committee members are; Christine Penny, Susan Stanich, and Judy Gibbs.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07, m/s/c.