

Tree Commission Minutes

January 15, 7pm

Members present: Jim Lemmerman, Jim Larson, Liz Johnson; City staff: Judy Gibbs.
Condolences shared on the passing of Christine Penney's father.

Membership

Discussion about application process. Get the word out about the commission. All present made various commitments to get the word out. See language below. **Applications due February 15th to the City Clerks Office.** Please pass on the blurb below to all you can tell about the Tree Commission. **Jim Lemmerman** will get this to the Society of American Foresters to pass on, as well as to Bob Kreps at the county. **Jim Larson** will contact the Izaak Walton League, **Judy** will contact Hawk Ridge, Hartley Nature Center and the MCC.

Discussion about current member terms and a request for folks to identify scope of personal work or project focus for each. Bring your strengths to leadership topics and be the lead. Topics to choose from could be the Sky Harbor airport, Hartley pine plantation, Duluth Tree City/Arbor Day planning, development of the Tree Commission web page in the Parks web page, development of the Facebook page, Brighton Beach planting, invasive species management, Master Tree Plan writing.

Jim Larson stated that Airport and Park Point communications and the Park Point Small Area Plan, Hartley Nature Center Pine Plantation, and working with East High School forest are his focus. He is not interested in policy writing process, other than for the pine plantations issues. He will bring a draft of plantation management for the next working meeting, Monday Feb 4th. **Liz Johnson** suggested working on the web site and the facebook plan would be something she would want to do. Need the other commissioners to decide what they would like to work on specifically. Come up with position descriptions and task list prior to new commissioners coming on board.

Forester Report / New business

Judy reports that Jennifer Teegarden, Forestry Outreach Specialist for DNR, want to feature what we are doing in Duluth as part of State Arbor Day activities. They want to bring dignitaries to Duluth for the day for planting and celebration of our tree work and also utilize the Emerald Ash Borer costumes to bring EAB to the spotlight. **ARBOR DAY SLATED for MAY 15th MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** More info to come. **Could use help in its planning.**

Jim Larson suggests us doing a project that may be good for this day [or other.] Points out that White pine planting at Brighton Beach done in 2006 was successful. Cages may even be removed in 3 years. Minimal pruning was done but cages need to be expanded to accommodate next three years. Judy identified possible resources (people) for cage expansion.

Sky Harbor

No news on Sky Harbor.

Skyline view preservation on hold until Christine's return to Commission work.

Hartley Pine Plantation

Goal to have pine plantation plan written up **by Jim Larson** by February to be utilized in the Hartley Park master planning process.

Mini master plan for Hartley requires expertise in environmental ed, natural systems (forest and hydro) - When soliciting bids for the job, we need to list desired qualifications for the consultant that will help get the right outfit hired for the job. Jim will look at bumping up the forestry language in the description (SAF Certified) and get it to Judy. Judy put into the plan after this meeting

- Must be a member of the Society of American Foresters and be a SAF certified forester with intensive pine plantation management.

John Paulsen, chair of Hartley stewardship committee, suggests that by having language re: pine plantation plan prepared in advance of master plan will be good. He recommended (based on tree commission expertise) preparation of talking points ahead of master plan will help alleviate community stress. Liz suggests photo display at Hartley Nature Center that shows entire 10 acres of blown down or dead pine trees vs. healthy pine mgmt. would help make the point. Think about a preemptive news story with John Myers from the Duluth News Tribune. **NO ONE ASSIGNED.**

Other

Facebook site was taken up by Amy Norris in Communications. **Judy** will get an update from her as possible. Judy also let us know that we are able to design page for the Duluth Parks page on its website. **Liz and Judy** will continue to work on both of these fronts. **Send Liz and Judy any pictures or content ideas you have that would be good for a page or site.**

Please note:

Hawthorne Street trees we being threatened in 1970's actually resulted in the formation of the tree commission. Please note: There will be a meeting soon about flood remediation on this same street Shawna has inventories and staff have met with engineers. Some trees will be coming down. We may have visitors at next meeting. :) **Take a drive up Hawthorne if you can.**

MPCA Grant

FYI was attached to last communications for your reference.

Submitted by Liz Johnson

Four openings for Tree Commissioners for the City of Duluth!

Are YOU interested in trees? Do you have a passion for the vast green spaces of Duluth? Do you care about that boulevard tree in front of your house?

The Duluth Tree Commission was created by the City of Duluth to act as an advisory group for the city Forestry program, by recommending and advising the City administration and the City Council on policies, budgetary concerns and technical, related issues having an effect on boulevard tree placement

and replacement, management, maintenance and removal, reforestation, urban forest management and tree preservation. The mission of the Commission is “to educate and inform the public and act as an advocate for the preservation, protection and promotion of Duluth’s urban forest and to advise the City on the management of this forest.”

The Tree Commission recently updated the Duluth Tree Ordinance and provided key input into the Unified Development Plan. You can make a difference by serving on the Commission and helping with the City of Duluth’s Master Tree Plan as it takes shape over the next several months. The Plan will address invasive species, management of our wild forested areas, climate change, tree planting and maintenance and more.

The Duluth Tree Commission currently has four vacancies and are looking for YOU to help fill those spots.

According to the Tree Commission’s By-laws, two members of the Commission shall be professionally engaged in an occupation related to forestry, landscaping, tree or plant nursery, architecture or an allied or related profession and all others shall be a broad cross section of interested citizens.

Members are required to be residents of the city of Duluth and must be able to attend at least nine meetings a year. The Tree Commission meets on the third Tuesday of the month in City Hall at 7 pm. Applications are available on line at http://www.duluthmn.gov/clerk/boards_commissions/forms/bacapp.pdf and are due to the City Clerk’s office in City Hall by February 15, 2013. Terms are for three years.

For more information, contact Judy Gibbs at jgibbs@duluthmn.gov or 218-730-4308.