

March 17, 2009 Tree Commission Minutes

Present: Christine Penney, Jim Larson, Brian Allen, Margi Preus, Ethan Perry

Absent: Kelly, Rick

guest: Kimberly Sannes from City Engineering Dept

Meeting began with informal discussion about protecting trees during street construction. Kimberly suggests that some of the ordinance language may be better placed and more effective as city policy or in permits (for utility companies working on public property, for instance) or as part of the UDC.

MNDOT & city code for protecting public trees during street work: Kimberly will email a copy of the specifications (#2572) to Christine, review draft ordinances in terms of private work, perhaps the language should be in an existing permit?

she also suggests education for city workers, utility workers and educational material to accompany new additions to permits

Regular meeting began at 8:05

Feb. Minutes approved

Trees in the News

DNT article about Park Point Trees—apparently measuring trees
DNT article about Minnesota guy getting carbon trade for trees

March 24 UDC meeting; 6 pm;
Central High school
Public Informational – outline of what the UDC will look like
how to get the word out; what other groups to contact: Clean Water Action; Audubon; Isaac Walton League.

Tree Ordinance – next meeting
Tues. March 31st, 7 p.m.

Ethan's meeting with Greg Gilbert- he is a big supporter of the Tree Commission (we need a higher profile!) He suggested we spin off a non-profit organization which could ask for tax deductible donations for trees. Christine says the City can get tax deductible donations, so why start another one, which is a lot of work. But we will discuss this further.

- sees tree ordinance as a positive thing; and positive for the tree commission itself

- for cutting public trees for views (up to City Forester to make final decision) he thinks we should write in an appeal mechanism--perhaps appeal to the Tree Commission
Perhaps we need/could get more power if this were put into effect, since at present we are advisory in capacity and don't have much power. And therefore, lack of participation.
Ways to up our profile were discussed.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.