

## Tree Commission Minutes

20 January 2015

**Members Present:** Janet Nelson, Liz Johnson, Jim Lemmerman, Barbara Stark, Mike Pennington, Dale Sellner, Jacob Shaw.

**Others Present:** Joel Sipress, Shawna Mullen-Eardley, Don Kienholz, Christine Penney.

**Approval of Minutes:** Janet made a motion, seconded by Mike, to approve the minutes from 09/16/14. Motion passed unanimously.

**4<sup>th</sup> Street:** Joel Sipress, Duluth City Councilor representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> District, encouraged the TC to take a constructive role in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street reconstruction issue. He suggested that we review the independent arborist's report, discuss the report conclusions and, if we agree these are well-grounded conclusions, that we endorse the project. Of particular importance will be the replanting of trees following the street reconstruction and how to ensure that this will be done to the very highest standards. He reported that the City Council will be voting on the resolution to move forward with the project probably in April and it would be very helpful to both the City Council and the community to have TC input. Liz made a motion, seconded by Mike, stating that Tree Commissioners will review the arborist's report and submit comments to the Secretary; Barbara and Liz will meet to craft a position letter that will then be sent around to the TC for review; once agreed upon this letter will be emailed to Dale who will assist us with drafting a press release or letter to the editor of the DNT of the Tree Commission's position. The motion passed unanimously. Dale will also call Joel to let him know our decision.

**Forester's Report:** Dale reported that there will be a new forestry intern starting soon who will be working full-time from about mid-May to mid-August. Don reported that the weather is now not so cold and they have begun pruning trees around the city.

**Realignment of Commission Officers:** Jim stated that we need a new Chair and Vice Chair. Christine agreed to be Chair once she is approved for the Commission by the City. Dale agreed to be the interim Chair.

**Suggestions to Consider for TC:** Shawna discussed a wide variety of activities that the Tree Commission as a whole or individual Tree Commissioners could engage in to become more effective and relevant in meeting the needs of Duluth's urban forest. These included becoming Citizen Outreach Volunteers and speaking to groups about the benefits of trees in our community, staffing a table at festivals/fairs with information for the public about the TC and urban forest issues, planning and hosting an Arbor Day event, attending public meetings on projects that impact City trees, starting a Facebook page and more. She will write up her list and send it to Liz. We discussed the possibility of organizing an Arbor Day event this spring, and will discuss changing our logo and name at the next meeting.

Shawna will reserve the meeting room in City Hall for our meetings in 2015.

Barbara will compile a list of TC members and their email addresses and phone numbers.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Stark.