

Tree Commission Minutes

26 May 2015

Members Present: Jacob Shaw, Janet Nelson, Jim Lemmerman, Dale Sellner, Barbara Stark.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April and May meetings will be considered for approval at the June meeting.

Forestry Report: Dale stated that the forestry intern started today and will be with the City until August 10th. She will be working on writing the EAB plan for the City. The City completed an inventory of boulevard trees but still needs to know how many need to be replanted. The intern will do a windshield inventory which will help to know how many trees to order and where to plant them. Dale is working to get the Park Maintenance budget increased and have a City Forester.

There is a scheduled tree planting (5/29) at the M&H gas station. This event is coordinated by Shawna and will involve volunteers planting 20 trees. There will be another tree planting event along the Lester River Road ski trail.

Arbor Day: We discussed the possibility of arranging for a tree planting/Arbor Day event in conjunction with one of the Chester Creek summer concerts. A statement by the Mayor and the tree planting could happen just prior to the concert. Dale will check into this idea.

10th Avenue E.: Jacob reported on the 10th Avenue E road project meeting that he attended. This project involves new curb and gutter construction and resurfacing of the roadway from 4th to 11th Street. There are not many trees and most of them are declining silver maples. All the trees will be removed. The residents are not concerned about the tree removal but are pleased to know that trees will be replanted.

Janet brought a wide selection of printed material available for free to the TC from the MDA. We can order and distribute this literature in various locations around town (library, Parks & Rec office...) and at events (Chester Creek concerts, Lester River Rendezvous, Chester Bowl Fall Fest...) where the TC could have a table. Shawna can assist us in identifying events where we could do this.

There will be a workshop in Duluth, June 30th, put on the by the U of M forestry extension. The theme is "Trees vs. Street Improvements: What is Worthy of Preservation and Knowing When to Say Good Bye." This could be very appropriate for Tree Commissioners to attend and Dale will sign up those interested to attend and cover the cost.

Next month the TC will need to elect a new Chair and there was some discussion about changing the meeting time.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Barbara Stark