

Urban Forest Commission Minutes

19 April 2016

Members Present: Barbara Stark, Jim Lemmerman, Mike Pennington, Liz Johnson, Christine Penney, Janet Nelson.

Guests Present: Kevin (Green Corps), Louise Levy, Ann Redelfs.

Approval of Minutes: Jim made a motion, seconded by Christine, to approve the February minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Forester's Report: Christine reported that a forestry intern will start on May 23. Dale submitted a question (read by Christine) asking who might be willing to represent the UFC regarding the EAB management plan at a future City Council meeting. Since the date of the meeting when the management plan will be presented for approval is not known it was difficult for anyone to commit. We agreed it would be best if several of us could be present. Louise expressed concerns about the plan, especially the potential loss of healthy but less than 12" DBH ash trees in downtown, Lincoln Park and West Duluth business district. She feels it would be a mistake not to save them. She also commented that it will be critical to have correct and accurate information in the tree inventory. Louise discussed her use of North Point Geographic Systems which she is using to inventory the trees at the zoo. She has found it easy to use for data collection and that it might be good for the City to contract with them to set up the inventory system. It is critical that any new information gathered must be compatible with information from the earlier inventory although there is some question concerning what exactly is wrong with the current inventory. Jim mentioned that MNSTAC would also be a good organization to contact for inventory guidance.

Old Business:

New Member Recruitment – Christine reported that she has recruited James Gittemeier to join the UFC. We need to try to recruit a working or retired forester or other forestry related professional.

Skyline Management Plan – Jim and Mike reported that the group has developed a plan for the 500 block of Skyline Parkway. Box elder will be removed. Short, medium and tall trees and shrubs will be planted. Louise is the arborist working on this project.

New Business:

Arbor Day – Many suggestions and good ideas were discussed as ways to acknowledge and celebrate Arbor Day. The UFC could host a table at a community event. Kevin suggested the Green Ribbon campaign where trees would be marked with green ribbons and tags with QR codes passersby could scan for tree/Arbor Day/EAB information. Both the West Duluth Business Club and EcoRotary were suggested as possible sources of volunteers to help with an event. Louise mentioned Brewing a Better Forest along with Bent Paddle and other breweries might be a fun collaboration. We could arrange to have the Mayor read an Arbor Day proclamation at one of the summer Chester Bowl concerts.

Adjourn: Mike made a motion, seconded by Jim, to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Stark.