

Urban Forest Commission Minutes

Special Meeting with Linda Cadotte, City of Superior Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry
8 August 2016

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

Others Present: John Ramos, Kevin, Louise Levy, Ann Redelfs, Myrna Matthews, Linda Cadotte.

The meeting was called to order by Mike at 6:02 PM. Mike introduced Linda Cadotte, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry for Superior, WI and stated the focus of this special meeting was to learn about the City of Superior's approach to EAB.

Linda shared that Superior had approximately 3000 boulevard ash trees at the time that EAB was first detected in the city, which does not include City parks, the municipal forest or private land. The city decided that it was not financially feasible at the time to treat trees but gave citizens the option of treating boulevard trees at their own expense. The City contracted with three tree services and once a citizen had requested a permit to treat a tree the citizen would work with one of the tree services to provide treatment and follow up treatment later. Approximately 180 trees have been treated using this system.

Linda stated that after EAB was found in Superior the boulevard ash trees to be removed were marked. Then citizens had several months to submit requests for treatment permits. Citizens can also purchase a replacement tree for removed boulevard ash trees through their Tribute Tree program. They have an approved list of tree species for boulevard planting and they distribute planting standards and guidelines to citizens to ensure the best possible survival for these trees.

At this time all ash trees have been removed (unless being treated by private citizens at citizen's expense) from Superior boulevards and parks but not yet from the municipal forest.

Dale asked what one piece of advice Linda would give to Duluth if EAB is found here and boulevard trees need to be removed. Linda stated that giving the public as much notice as possible is crucial. Notice of the impending discovery of EAB, the management plan, the process of tree removal and whether there is an option to save certain trees is important information to share with the public. She also thinks that treating some trees so the entire canopy is not lost is important to consider.

Janet mentioned her experience in St. Paul when EAB was discovered there and that Incident Command was used to coordinate the response. There followed some discussion of how best to get information out to citizens, communities, and all involved in the process of tree treatment, removal and replanting. Duluth has an Information Officer who would have an important role in dispersing information.

Liz talked about the urgency of getting the word out now about the potential loss of so many trees in and around Duluth and northern Minnesota and suggested that people/agencies/universities/corporations/communities begin thinning ash trees now so that planting of new canopy and understory species will already be in place before the loss of so many ash trees. This

could have a major impact on protecting the watershed and preventing or minimizing flooding in the region.

The City of Superior's website has a link to their EAB plan including the application for citizen treatment of boulevard trees.

Janet made a motion, seconded by Jacob, to adjourn at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Barbara Stark