

## January 2010 Tree commission minutes

Present: Christine Penney, Jim Larson, Brian Allen, Margi Preus, Kelly Fleissner, Ethan Perry, Judy Gibbs

Absent: Richard Gitar

Meeting called to order: 7:10

November minutes approved

### Trees in the News

- EAB in the news, grants have gone to metro area

### Forester Report

- pruning has been mostly put off; spent a lot of time clearing up aftermath of Christmas storm
- budget may be in trouble for 2010; but staffing will be good if everything works out including reg. staff and seasonal workers. The youth program is well funded, so there will be lots of kids

### Sky Harbor airport update

- meeting Thursday evening at 7 pm at Community Club
- nothing much to report so far

### Skyline Parkway Alliance

- Doug from SPA is free Monday a.m., Jan 25 and hopes to have a tree commission member or two to go along.
- Jim may be able to go; Christine will contact Doug; Doug has maps
- Kelly brought up issue of a

### Judy Gibbs

- didn't get EAB grant
- intern Cal is UMD student; excited about photo contest--focus on ash trees? year long contest? educational component, arbor day

Christine discussed issues of changing goals because of not getting the staff and funds applied for in the grant.

Judy--what is needed:

- laptops
- software, training that's needed (everything is about \$8,000) or can do it on-line possibly
- Judy will call Nate
- University? NRRI? St. Paul Campus?

MN Shade Tree has a meeting on Thurs, Jan. 21; Kelly and Judy will attend; perhaps get some of these other questions answered

Judy is attending tree inspector meeting and EAB meeting and several pruning classes and taking on on-line pruning course.

- Kelly ordered more pruning equipment

#### Tree Ordinance update

- Ethan reported on a letter from Attorney Asleson from the city; Ethan will send a copy of his notes and revision to us
- discussion of the sample pest ordinance
- Q; should we, as in sample ordinance, include specific different control measures for different pests- discussion about whether to include information about specific abatement. It seemed to have worked to have more relaxed language, giving authority to the city forester
- Ethan read some sections from the sample ordinance; Kelly pointed out the differences and similarities between it and the city's existing ordinance (mostly similar)
- Q: Should we require tree service companies to register w/the Commissioner of Ag? We do not have this language in the existing ordinance or the working draft. Kelly is interested in pursuing this—he'll ask some people.

meeting adjourned at 8:26