

Minutes of the April 15, 2008 Tree Commission Meeting

Present: Brian Allen, Rob Marohn, John Doberstein, Kelly Fleissner, Ethan Perry, Jim Larson, Margi Preus

Absent: Louise Levy, Christine Penney, Rick Gitar

Meeting called to order at 7:10

March minutes approved

Forester's Report

- Kelly reported on blizzard damage in the city--a lot of tree clean up. Spruce on private property and green ash on public property were the most damaged.
- Shade tree conference - water quality, efforts made in Lakeville to deal w/storm water runoff. Lake Pepin filling in faster than it should. Power point presentation available. Trying to do smart development and dealing w/run off, shoreline protection.
- Christine contacted Kelly about cutting taking place up the north shore. Kelly talked about the model for replacement.

Trees in the News

- Margi brought in a 1962 Nat'l Geographic w/an add for spraying trees
- Brian and Ethan both brought in a Budgeteer article by Dave Ross about partnering with organizations to "make quality of place enhancements and the creation of jobs a combined, fused and powerful initiative." There was some discussion on how we might partner with the Chamber.

New Business

- Ethan got an email from Dave Schimpf from UMD who is organizing a meeting about invasive species in Twin Ports--wants to set up task force or group to monitor invasives. May 1 meeting--Ethan will contact us
- Kelly said there's an invasive species conference coming to Duluth in October--he'll keep us posted
- MPCA grants - due at the end of April. Categories include Climate Energy Citizen Partnership grants, up to \$10,000. (out of St. Paul)
 - o to reduce greenhouse gases and energy use--
 - o desire citizens input component
 - o helping homeowners how to plant trees
 - o grant money can be used to match the cost of nursery stock--program can encourage people to plant trees in their yards; providing homeowners with
 - o Rob--what do we want money for? Brochure?
 - o Brian--need funding for tree inventory
 - o Decided it's too rushed and not a perfect fit

- Agenda for next meeting: Kelly suggests we make a wish list of projects for which we want money
- And potential funding sources.

Tree Ordinance

Ethan reported on our tree ordinance meeting

- meeting w/Ted Stocke went well; he was supportive
- Rob Link has not responded to Ethan's messages
- Discussion included: rewording of the tree replacement plan-replacement plan would have to be submitted to the city 30 days in advance of cutting
- Dividing trees into classes (pines, sugar maples, oaks have a greater replacement ratio than faster growing species)
- Ethan has contacted another developer who will communicate via email about the ordinance--already brought up some issues we haven't addressed (i.e. topsoil)
- Next ordinance meeting will be held May 6.

Brochure: purpose is to publicize the tree ordinance

- Louise made a first draft; Rob made copies for everyone
- Discussion about photos (Ethan pictures a view of street trees)
- Everybody make notes on your copies for next ordinance meeting

Tree photo contest idea--photography contest sponsored by tree commission. Chamber funding?//calendar. Kelly will talk to his PR person. Try to get something going soon.

Jim is attending a Sky Harbor meeting tomorrow. (April 16)

John announced that Sat. Duluth is celebrating Earth Day-all day celebration at Leif Erickson Park; Farmer's Mkt; Kelly said it's Earth week next week; clean and green..

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.