

May 20, 2008 Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Present: Brian Allen, Jim Larson, Kelly Fleissner, Rick Gitar, Louise Levy, Ethan Perry

Absent: Christine Penny, John Doberstein, Rob Marohn

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

April minutes approved

Trees in the News

Louise brought in two articles: April 27 DNT "Tree planting programs"

DNT "Sky Harbor to shorten runway"

Margi brought in an article from the Strib about boulevard trees

City Forester Monthly Report

Among many activities, the following were discussed

- Sea Grant does a yearly view from the lake (on a boat). This year it's about trees and storm water run off. Ethan & Kelly were invited to give input.
- Hartley dam—is one of the highest priority dams in MN because of the amt of water it holds and the # of homes at grade (yikes! mine included)
- some discussion of budget issues as pertains to equipment maintenance
- emerald ash borer trapping
- rehabbing old trail at zoo

New Business

- Ethan reported on the meeting with the Mayor (also attended by Kelly and John) about the tree ordinance.
- Suggested that the tree ordinance idea should have support from the community, and made suggestions as how to proceed, including getting support from one or more city councilors.
- didn't object to the idea of a dedicated tree fund
- Ethan & Brian reported on meeting with Wells McGifford, owner of Beacon Point; he suggested the terms of ordinance should be voluntary
- Louise wrote a letter to the Rotary Club #25 requesting doing a program for them about the tree ordinance.
- Project Priorities for funding
 1. Brochure
 2. tree inventory (two parts: 1) in the city what is the forest cover? 2) new developments, how much tree cover (%) is actually lost?
 3. educational campaign to accompany tree ordinance//trees//what's an effective way to communicate information about the tree ordinance?

Potential funders

- Rotary?

- Ethan floated the idea of a grant that in the beginning would help fund the operation of the ordinance/provide a match for developers for tree replacement? Or possibly for administration of the ordinance. MPCA potential funder? (if they have grant funding next year)

Brochure- discussion of how to have it done?

- Louise will find out costs of having graphic designer/professionally printed
- Kelly will follow up on photo contest – to get it going. June 1 kick off.
- Margi will request photos from last year's tree-scaping winners.
- Question: do we want to do tree-scaping awards again this year?
- Ethan will contact Roger Reinert to ask if he will support the ordinance. Other possibilities are Tony Cuneo. Roger Reinert, Sharla Gardner or Jeff Anderson

Jim Larson reported on:

- Sky Harbor issue—Jim Larson reported on the citizens input meeting; study going on now of usage of the airport; next meeting is tomorrow. discussing scoping document
- Lester River/ kids from Holy Rosary, planted 35 white pine and 25 white spruce (?) coverage from a couple of tv stations
- Hartley Nature Ctr. – about 35 red pine felled; they will build an amphitheatre with those logs in that location.
- Ethan asked about individuals wanting to plant boulevard trees. Kelly: they can. call gopher 911 about underground utilities and ask Kelly about what are good trees to plant.

Adopt a tree program was brought up/

Next ordinance meeting is June 3

meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.