

Urban Forest Commission

Meeting Minutes May 17, 2017

Attendance:

Commissioners: Chair - Christine Penney, Vic Chair - Liz Johnson, Clark Christenson, Beth Peterson, Mike Pennington, Judy Gibbs, Susan Stanich
City Staff: Erik Birkeland, Dale Sellner

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:00.

Minute Approval:

The minutes from the April 19st, 2017 meeting as amended.

New Commissioners Introductions

Judy Gibbs and Susan Stanich were introduced and welcomed to the Commission by the members.

Forester's Report

EAB Plan

The EAB Outreach Committee met. Here are the key topics discussed:

Communication Plan

1. Create a website that is simple and informative.
 - A. Contact information for certified arborist's.
 - i. Citizens can reach out these contractors to treat/inject trees.
 - ii. Map the infected areas of the City.
 - B. Order tree ribbons to identify Ash Trees. A URL address and QR reader will be print on them to direct citizens to the EAB website. It is anticipated that the website could be live by the June Meeting of the UFC.
 - C. Schedule a press release one month prior to the EAB Plan launch. Woodland will be identified as the starting point of the EAB Plan.

- D. Work to inform contractors on how to relay tree treatment & location to the City for inventory purposes.
- E. Tree removals will begin in the Fall to prevent further infestation by the flying adult stage of the Emerald Ash Borer.
- F. Tree treatments will begin mid-June.
- G. The committee had a first reading of the City's response to contractors or private individuals who would like to treat trees that are infected and are slated for removal.
- H. Formulate a response to concerned individuals on the impacts that the chemicals used for treating the trees could have on pollinators, pets, and other insects.

Yarn Bombing

A strategy of using yarn bombing to decorate trees as a method for increasing awareness to EAB was discussed. It was noted that the City would be reluctant to authorize this strategy on the City own trees that are in the boulevards or parks. Pros and cons were discussed. No action was taken by the Commission.

Inventory & Tracking Matrixes

Systems are in place to track and inventory trees, however there aren't employee resources to record data entry. It was noted that Kevin Malquist has been instrumental in guiding the EAB Outreach Committee on communication, education, and tracking EAB information. The City is towards inventorying all of their trees.

New Business:

Christine Penny informed the Commission about Governor Dayton's directive to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) that they will not be allowed to just inform the public that trees will be removed for their projects. They must proactively work with the public to vet a solution that considers their opinion. The regional MnDOT office is reaching out to the Duluth Urban Forest Commission to improve their public process.

Old Business

Arbor Day

Myrna Matheson gave a report on the Lorax Themed Arbor Day Celebration that will be held at the Main Library May 20th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Green Room. Key topics are as follows:

1. A one act about the Lorax.
2. Christine Penny will read the Mayor's Proclamation.
3. A 30-minute talk on the importance of trees.
4. Tree themed sing along.
5. A costumed Lorax.
6. Lorax Certificates will be handed out.
7. Craft workshops.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:17. m/s/c