

# Urban Forest Commission

## Meeting Minutes June 21, 2017

### Attendance:

Commissioners: Vice Chair - Liz Johnson, Clark Christenson, Beth Peterson, Mike Pennington, Judy Gibbs, Susan Stanich

City Staff: Dale Sellner

City Council: Em Westerlund

### Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:07.

### Minute Approval:

The minutes from the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, were approved.

### Forester's Report

#### EAB Outreach Plan

1. Judy Gibbs and Lori Sealy met with Senator Al Franken's Northern Minnesota's Representative to discuss how EAB will affect our local watersheds.
2. EAB Grant approvals are pending.
3. The informational EAB ribbons are in are presented at the meeting.
4. Kevin Malmquist & Dale Sellner moving forward on treating Ash Trees with injections.
5. The Website Communication Plan is complete. There was a motion put forth for the UFC's support of the plan as designed. M/S/C. Dale will work the City's Public Information Coordinator to formulate a press release of the plan.

### New Business:

#### National Bank of Commerce Presentation

Jaron Laron & Hannah Horman from the National Bank of Commerce presented their plan for engaging NBC's employees for the Minnesota Bankers Community Impact Week. They would like the UFC's support and assistance to implement the project. Their plan focuses on improving water sheds to Lake Superior. They would like to dedicated Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for planting trees. They will have two shifts with 20-30 associates available. They have a budget of \$1,000.00, this should be able to purchase ~2000 trees. Chambers Grove and Miller Creek were suggested as potential sites. Items that need to be resolved are as follows:

1. Would any Commissioners be available to direct and assist on September 20<sup>th</sup>?
2. Does the Commission or the City have the resources to protect the newly planted trees?
3. Should the trees be ordered in containers or bundles?

4. Where would the delivered trees be housed until they are planted?

A motion for the UFC to support NBC's plan was put forth. M/C/S.

#### Lincoln Park Black Willow

As part of a design process for park improvements, the City solicited tree assessments for an old growth Black Willow from Levy Tree Service and Rick's Tree Service. The City is using that information to determine designing around or removing the tree. The assessments will be sent out to the Commissioners for their opinion.

#### Elm Tree Treatment

A question was posed; The EAB Plan protects Ash Trees; why would we not invest in treating Elm Trees? The Commission discussed the pros and cons of treating Elm Trees to protect them from disease. Parks Maintenance has never treated them in the past. It was decided to table the topic until the new City Forester was in place.

### **Old Business**

#### Arbor Day

Myrna Matheson gave a report on the Lorax Themed Arbor Day Celebration that was held at the Main Library May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Green Room. The celebration was a success and attended by over 70 participants. 17 trees were given away. Myrna suggested that the planning for the Fall Arbor Day Celebration start now and should have provisions for it to take place indoors. Past Celebrations have suffered due to poor weather.

#### City Forester

The part time City Forester Job Action Form has been approved. The position will be posted to be filled.

### **Adjournment**

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07. m/s/c