

Urban Forest Commission

Meeting Minutes January 17, 2018

Attendance:

Commissioners: Mike Pennington, Christine Penney, Beth Kleinke, Susan Stanich, Jim Lemmerman, Judy Gibbs, Brandon Van Tassel

City Staff: Clark Christenson, City Forester; Erik Birkeland, Ex-Officio

City Councilor Em Westerlund

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:03.

Minute Approval:

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 15th, 2017, Meeting. M/S/C.

Forester's Report

EAB

The Parks Maintenance crew has removed 182 Ash Trees in the Woodland and Congdon neighborhoods. The rest of the removals for this year will be completed by Friday, January 19.

Dependent on Parks Maintenance's work schedule; there may be an opportunity to begin Ash Tree removals in the Lakeside neighborhood this winter and start on the slated 2018 removals.

Gypsy Moth Report

Results of trapping by the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, last year showed the presence of Gypsy Moths. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will contract out will spraying bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) organic pesticide in Duluth this Summer to deter the hatch.

New Business:

Society of American Foresters Report

Louise Levy presented to the Commissioners about her work with the Society of American Foresters. She works with their B2 Working Group on Community & Urban Forestry. Urban forestry typically doesn't have Societies or credentials to supporting it. She shared some links and programs that support urban forestry and encouraged the Commissioners to use them as a resource. They are the following:

Society of American Foresters:

<https://www.eforester.org/main>

Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation:
<https://frec.vt.edu/index.html> & <http://urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu/2020/>

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee Survey

Commissioner Jim Lemmerman shared a survey with the Commission and asked for the Commission to fill it out. The survey was created to collect information, and determine the needs of Forestry Boards and Commissions to better enable MNSTAC to advocate on their behalf. Questions asked participants to rank their needs, inquired about knowledge of MNSTAC, and how MNSTAC can facilitate raising funds surrounding urban forestry.

Urban Forest Commissions City Project Engagement

City Councilor Em Westerlund advocated for increased UFC engagement in the following types City Projects:

1. Timber Harvests
2. Streets Projects
3. Parks Projects

Using their expertise and experience, the UFC would vet projects and make recommendations regarding removals and plantings. They're participation would be most beneficial early on in the design process.

Old Business

Skyline Parkway Viewscape Update

A citizen inquired why the implemented Skyline Parkway Viewscape Project was not completed 100% as originally conceived. The answer is as follows; due to lack of funding, the project was value engineered to complete the cuttings and plantings at the formal overlooks first, and continue working towards completing the rest of the project as monies became available. 2016 saw the 500 block completed. Additional blocks will be cut and planted as money becomes available.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11, m/s/c.