

Tree Commission Minutes
Feb. 17, 2009

Present: Ethan Perry, Richard Gitar, Jim Larson, Kelly Fleissner, Christine Penney, Brian Allen, Margi Preus

Meeting called to order: 7:10 at Kelly's Office,

Nov. & Jan Minutes approved

Trees in the News:

- DNT: Sky Harbor – Federal money for a study for re-aligning the runway
- DNT: Bayview School Forest- City Council expected to give up 80 acres to the school forest
- NRRI mag: 1 p. article Storm Water Study in Duluth Hillside Neighborhood (Amity Crk watershed neighborhood working to reduce storm water run off by use of water gardens, trees and shrubs, etc.)

Forester's Report

- meeting w/city staff and DNR re: conservation easement on Magney Snively area to add protection to the area
- Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council (which chooses which projects get funded) –a coalition from this area is trying to get representation and projects considered. @ present there is no representative from our area on the council.
- Street width: currently our policy is 26 ft. (based on requirement as interpreted by fire chief) although many neighborhoods have 20 or 24 foot wide streets

Tree Ordinance

Ethan has had 4 meetings recently:

Rick says the EAC will do a letter of recommendation as soon as things are more finalized.

Meeting with City Staff: Cindy Voight (cityh engineer, Chris Kleist (facilities & storm water); Mark McShane (properties mgr), Cindy Petkak

- Ethan discussed changes made to the document after meeting w/city staff, including
- suggestions to change "reserve tree" to "preserved tree"
- not favorably inclined toward forest management plans
- heritage trees – Cindy Voight felt heritage trees should be designated by the administration rather than city council. Jim Stauber felt it should be a council decision. We'll continue to discuss this with councilors and others.
- re: construction activities that impact public trees; we have limited it to trees on boulevards and in parks; but city forester should be involved when city trees are impacted.
- referring to tree protection standards, city staff wanted to reference their own standards (Kelly says they use MNDOT specs which are used when the city hires a contractor to do work in the city—different than work done in a rural or

- undeveloped area)
- wanted to remove #3 because it's already part of policy—Q. is should it be policy or code? Rewrote #3 to say: contractors are required to follow the city specifications

Meeting with Jim Stauber

- believes city should be funding tree planting; discussed dedicated tree fund
- in ref to heritage trees, he suggested that tree commission & planning commission be involved both in designation and de-designation of heritage trees.

Next ordinance meeting Mar. 2

Meeting adjourned for tree pruning lesson from Kelly 8:05 p.m.