

## July 21, 2009 Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Deb Anderson

Guest: Judy Gibbs

Meeting called to order 7:06 p.m.

June minutes approved

### Trees in the News

DNT – small outbreaks of gypsy moths in northland. There is cause for concern. moths are definitely here. speculation about the impact of forest tent caterpillars paired with gypsy moths.

### Foresters Report

Kelly attended state workshop on EAB – bad news is that there are probably a lot more beetles than we know about; also bad news is that we have a lot of ash and it's everywhere. City plan is to:

- 1) inventory boulevard and park ash trees which will be high priority
- 2) 10 inventory zones w/assigned persons to designate trees under 10" and over 10" in diameter

Judy asked about seed saving program, if, after the trees are dead if the beetle population might die out there'd be a way to replant.

- Kelly mentioned EAB also lives for a long time in wood chips
- Question raised: what happens to the water level of swamps and rivers; and about the black ash that lines the Gooseberry River and other rivers and swamps
- also discussed situations where people are cutting ash ahead of time; and need to avoid the chestnut situation—cutting all the trees when some might survive.
- Kelly has been communicating this info up the chain of command. he spoke of the problem of finding effective replacement trees; typically use oak and resistant elms.
- Dutch elm disease is starting to show up.

### New Business

- Judy Gibbs with Friends of the Parks spoke about the role of the group and suggestions about how the group can help
- Friends of the Park was formed to enhance the work city foresters and other groups like the tree commission are doing. Through trail building and working with Kelly and Tom, they learn correctly how to prune shrubs, roses, trees, etc.
- Lower Chester will be home of Friends of the Parks, where they will hold classes and volunteer center—they may be able to help with tree pruning and other opportunities
- Kelly- currently pruning 3,000 trees/yr; should do about 7,000/yr. but these trees should probably be pruned ever couple of years
- Ethan brought up the issue of how we could get donations to help the city do things such

as plant trees, maintenance, etc. Friends of the Parks are working on becoming nonprofit.  
- Christine: two full time employees from Americorps are available? may be available?  
sponsors pay \$36,000/yr match per year per employee. Tree inventory; liaison w/Friends  
of Park; pruning, other forestry occupations. app deadline is Aug. 3

#### Old Business

Tree ordinance update

Two major components are in a holding pattern:

- unified development code—working w/consultants are supposed to call Ethan; time has come for Ethan to call them for an update.
- Jeff Anderson gave our ordinance draft to city attorney's office to work on, but it seems to be languishing.

One point of discussion for a special meeting would be on invasive species (to look at ordinance language that might strengthen that aspect of the ordinance).

#### Sky Harbor Airport

- Jim reports on Sky Harbor updates:

- The original dredge fill was all put in at one time. if more dredge fill is added, it's going to settle unevenly
- Jim Larson thought best alternative was to build the runway out about 7 degrees
- Kelly contacted Dave Poulin and suggested that he contact Scott Sannes—hasn't heard anything yet, about setting up a meeting on site to discuss the impact of the various alternatives—to see what trees would actually be impacted.
- Ethan—what about shifting the airport back? (impacts 528 trees; rotating runway slightly)
- Kelly – what is the true economic impact and/or cost to the city? does this airport bring in income? or is it an economic drain?

Kelly: will ask for an on-site meeting with Scott Sannes

what is next step:

Final environmental assessment will require public input

- Question: are Audubon folks involved w/Park Pt airport issue?

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.