

Tree Commission Minutes

17 February 2015

Members Present: Liz Johnson, Jim Lemmerman, Barbara Stark, Mike Pennington, Jacob Shaw, Dale Sellner.

Others Present: Joel Sipress, Shawna Mullen-Eardley.

Approval of Minutes: Jim moved, seconded by Liz, that the minutes from the January meeting (1/20/2015) be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

4th Street: Ann Redelfs, Margaret Wolters, Karen Salmela and Myrna Matthews were present to express their interest in saving as many trees along 4th Street as possible. They offered to send input and opinions from other concerned Duluth residents to the TC. City Councilor Joel Sipress reported that there will be a Committee of the Whole in March that will include a presentation to the City Council on the 4th Street project.

Presentation: The TC watched a presentation by the company Creative Effective Lasting (I did not get the official name). This program in Minnesota is called Roots in Minnesota and is a campaign promoting the benefits of urban forests, correct methods of tree planting and care. It is intended to educate home and business owners on the value of trees, inspire tree planting and increase community awareness. The TC discussed afterwards the possibility of using this program here in Duluth. The TC might recommend the use of this program and then seek grants to fund its implementation.

Old Business: No action to report on setting up a TC facebook page.

Forester's Report: Dale reminded the TC about the intern who will be starting soon. She will be invited to attend TC meetings. Pruning is happening now in Lakeside and east Duluth. There are 275 trees marked for removal. Most of these are elms or hazard trees that are either dead or dying.

New Business: Dale reported that in the next few weeks they will be sampling Park Point trees, with the help of a grant from the MDA, looking for EAB. The City is prepared to inject trees but this costs about \$150-250/tree and the City will need to decide which trees to inject. Removing a tree costs about the same as injection. The TC can be helpful with communication to and education of the public regarding EAB and in assisting with a process to decide which trees to inject. Liz recalled either Judy Gibbs or Shawna having mentioned some studies of other communities dealing with EAB and the different procedures they used. She will inquire about this since this information might help inform us.

Mike reported that Christine will be joining the TC in April. We still are in need of new members so current members are encouraged to seek out friends or others who might have an interest in serving on the TC. The TC also needs to elect a Chair. Dale will be interim Chair for one more month.

Motion to Adjourn: Mike made a motion, seconded by Jacob, to adjourn. The motion passed. Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Stark.