

March 18, 2008 Tree Commission Minutes

Present: Brian Allen, Jim Larson, Margi Preus, Ethan Perry, Rick Gitar, Louise Levy, Rob Marohn, Kelly Fleissner

Absent: Christine Perry, John Doberstein,

Guest: Rebecca Barnard; new forester with DNR; Sue and Steve Mulholland from the Duluth Archeology Club

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Feb. minutes approved

Trees in the news:

- Bonsai article in DNT
- Gypsy moth control articles
- Developer in Florida put a portion of land w//eagle in permanent conservation, recognizing the value in his property of saving eagles
- Urban trees as good as money; Conservation--applying \$ values to urban trees

Forester's Report

- Kelly brought in articles and materials regarding:
- Mapping urban tree canopy in Providence, R.I. -comparing urban tree cover
- Protecting the Chesapeake Bay with tree canopy
- na.fs.fed.us/urban/treespayusback or link from mntrees.org regarding applying dollar values to trees
- city working on figuring out what are/aren't core services; Kelly presented a park/forestry maintenance comparison of what MN cities spend per capita on urban forestry and park services. Duluth is at the bottom, at \$21 per capita.
- Louise brought up some cutting and pruning, oaks

Sue and Steve Mulholland from the Duluth Archeology Club

- did a arch survey at Bayview School Forest; found three sites, one prehistoric
- proposal to SEA grant to work on hillside in probable sites; have spoken to a variety of orgs; suggested that they speak with Tree Commission to get a letter of support for their proposal which, if funded, will begin in 2009 and run for one year
- voted and passed to write a letter of support (Rob will write it)

Old Business

- Tree Ordinance:
- Ethan reviewed info from tree ordinance meeting regarding the idea of changing from a permit idea to a Tree Preservation Plan. Ethan has been working on this and will present at the next ordinance meeting
- idea of pre-meeting with EAC, planning commission and council to hear their concerns and have the opportunity to adapt
- how can the rest of us help out with this, since Ethan is carrying most of this

- Rob suggests that he can create a flyer or something to promote the idea
- motion passed to write a letter to mayor (Ethan will write)
- other groups to contact: WLSSD? So. St. Louis Soil and Water (Brian will talk to SSLSW and Jim will talk to the Ikes. Neighborhood organizations or equivalent (PTA?))

Next Ordinance meeting: April 8 at 7 p.m.

Other business

- Lester Park development
- McQuade safe harbor will be planted, probably in June--all plantings planned, grasses, shrubs and trees. No public arbor day thing planned.

Next meeting April 15. Brian will chair the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 pm