

## Tree Commission Minutes

19 January 2016

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

**Call to Order:** 6:03 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** Mike made a motion, seconded by Jacob, to approve the December minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Forester's Report:** Dale first gave an update on plans for the February meeting which will be held February 16<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period for the EAB plan has already started. About 2 weeks prior to the meeting there will be announcements to the public about the meeting which will be in room 303 for more seating space. The agenda will be public and people can either submit comments online or come to the meeting. Comments at the meeting will be limited to 3 minutes per person. This meeting might also serve to educate the public about EAB.

Dale also reported that 80% of the ash trees have been removed on Park Point. The City accepts any brush and tree trimmings for chipping to keep infested wood from leaving Park Point. The chips will be used during replanting of trees on Park Point. After the Park Point ash trees have been removed the City will follow the EAB plan, concentrating on boulevard trees first. The ash trees around City Hall will be injected. 104 ash trees in Gary have already been injected. The goal will be to inject 20% of ash trees in each zone of the City designated by the EAB plan. There followed some discussion of residents who have a boulevard ash tree that does not meet the criteria to receive injections. Residents will not be able to hire a City tree crew to do this work but they can contact a licensed, private tree contractor. Dale will compile a list of licensed EAB injection services and the TC can help to educate the public about which contractors are licensed to provide this service.

The City's tree removal list is now at a couple hundred including elm, silver maple and ash. There will also be a focus on the replanting of 4<sup>th</sup> Street following the street reconstruction.

**New Business:** Skyline Advisory Group – Jim and Mike will represent the TC in this group. They will meet every other Tuesday possibly for the next 6 months in order to review the TC policy, the UDC, and the original tree ordinance. Their goal is to come up with a plan for Skyline that will be followed every year rather than only responding to individual calls. The Skyline Advisory Task Force will submit their plan to the TC for review and then it would proceed to the City Council for approval.

TC Goals/Plans – Jim's term expires in March of this year. With his departure the TC will be looking for 3 new members to reach a total of 9 members. TC goals for 2016, in no particular order, are the Skyline Task Force plan, the EAB management plan, writing a tree management plan for the City, Arbor Day which might serve as an EAB educational event for the public, Sky Harbor, and 4<sup>th</sup> Street tree planting (Dale reports that 40-60 trees will be planted along 4<sup>th</sup> St. in September 2016).

**Adjournment:** Jim made a motion, seconded by Christine, to adjourn at 6:55 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Stark.

