

Urban Forest Commission Minutes

16 August 2016

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

Others Present: John Ramos, Ann Redelfs, Myrna Matheson, Margaret Wolters.

Approval of Minutes: Janet made a motion, seconded by Jacob, to approve the minutes from the regular Commission meeting on July 19 and the Special Meeting with Linda Cadotte held on August 8 (with one correction to the Special Meeting minutes that the motion to adjourn was seconded by Jacob rather than Mike). The vote was unanimous to approve minutes as corrected.

Forester's Report: Dale reported on four main subjects as listed below.

4th Street – There are approximately 60 trees in the gravel beds that were intended for planting along 4th Street but because the construction project started late there is now concern about the difficulty to overwinter them. Dale recommends that these trees be planted this season wherever boulevard trees are needed and the City will need to purchase new trees next year for the 4th Street project.

Glenwood – Dale reports that the boulevard trees along Glenwood Street are looking good following a rough start a few years ago. He thinks there might be only one dead tree along the street.

Hartley Pine Plantation Management – The logging is completed. The storm which came right on the heels of the logging operation only exacerbated the destruction. The blowdown trees within the park will stay put for now although there will be increased fire hazard in 3-5 years as the wood dries. They will be working to develop a plan to manage the fire hazard.

Storm Damage Update – The City crews are still removing street-side debris and chips are being hauled to the Hibbard plant. MN Power has increased the loads of chips/tree waste they take per day which is helping a lot with the clean-up process. Heavy work will continue for another 2-3 weeks and after that debris will continue to be picked up. Crews will be working to clear Hartley ski trails first, followed by Lester ski trails.

Old Business:

EAB Management Plan – A discussion was held on the need to include a permitting process in our EAB plan so that residents can opt to treat boulevard ash trees at their own expense. We learned how the City of Superior handled this issue during the meeting with Linda Cadotte. Christine and Dale will work on the new language to insert into the EAB Management Plan and send it out to Commission members for comments and approval. Also discussed is the need to develop a plan to address EAB in wild lands/forests/large wooded tracts within City parks and other such areas. Jim mentioned that the DNR and MN Department of Ag already have such plans in place and he will look into this information. The current EAB Management Plan addresses only boulevard ash trees within the City of Duluth.

Arbor Day – We will consider planting some of the trees intended for 4th Street and focus on an event to educate the public about EAB. Lengthy discussion ensued on the need for much public education and how best to reach out and inform residents. Once the EAB Management Plan has been formally approved and adopted by the Duluth City Council there needs to be much effort put towards informing the public of the process.

New Members – Christine reminded everyone to be working on recruiting new members. The UFC needs 3 new commissioners.

New Business: Christine inquired about changing the meeting time to accommodate City Councilor Em Westerlund's schedule so she could attend our meetings as the City Council liaison. Everyone agrees that having Em's presence at our meetings would be very beneficial but some expressed concern about changing the time from 6 PM to 7 PM. We agreed that Em needs to be consulted about other days and/or times she is available to see if there might be a better fit for all. Christine also mentioned some informative articles on wildland ash utilization that she will send out to us.

Adjourn: Jacob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mike, that passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,
Barbara Stark