

Urban Forest Commission

Meeting Minutes November 15, 2017

Attendance:

Commissioners: Mike Pennington, Christine Penney, Beth Kleinke, Susan Stanich, Jim Lemmerman, Judy Gibbs

City Staff: Clark Christenson, City Forester; Erik Birkeland, Ex-Officio

City Councilor Em Westerlund

Call to Order:

The meeting started at 6:02.

Minute Approval:

The minutes from the October 18th, 2017, were approved.

Forester's Report

EAB

The Parks Maintenance crew has removed 122 Ash Trees in the Woodland and Congdon neighborhoods. 27 of the 122 were infested with EAB. The rest of the removals for this year will be completed in the next two weeks.

No bids are received yet to harvest the downed trees in Hartley Nature Area from the 2016 wind storm. Receiving any bids at this point is unlikely due to rotting from sitting too long.

New Business:

Stewardship Network Report

Lori Seele from the Stewardship Network reported on their work on Collaborative Invasive Species Management. Working to eradicate invasive species, the Stewardship Network is collaborating with governmental agencies, user groups, and stakeholders to increase the effectiveness of removals & communicate a unified message. Strategies include workshops to train the trainer and educate trail users. Challenges to success include limited funding and Lori working alone.

To further the eradication efforts; the commission made a motion to recommend creating a non-city position to assist Lori. The position would be funded by a grant. M/S/C.

Duluth Stream Corps Report

Brandon Van Tassel presented a dashboard of the Duluth Stream Corps Accomplishments. Highlights include:

Enlisting work from 497 volunteers.

Hiring 10 employees.

Planting 25,953 multiple species of trees on 74.9 acres.

Organizing educational opportunities.

Treating invasive species.

Old Business

Viewscape Policy

Mike Pennington found an existing tree ordinance. A determination of whether or not the City of Duluth's Unified Development Chapter supersedes the ordinance has not been resolved. Regardless of which applies; Skyline Parkway should have an exempt status.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57, m/s/c.