

## Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, April 22, 2021

“Zoom” Conference -6:00 P.M.

Attendees: Matt South, Megan Griffiths-Ward, Jason Brumbach, Phil Butto

Guests: Skylar Sutton, Dan Burkholder

Absent: Dave Faiman, Janice Lindstrom

Approval of Minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting be approved as submitted. Mr. Brumbach seconded. All voted in favor.

### Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder opened the floor for a 2021 Arbor Day review. Arbor Day is held the last Friday in April. The new Middle School will receive the planting of a maple tree as part of the holiday celebration that encourages tree planting. Mr. Butto confirmed plans are in place. Mr. South offered to read the Arbor Day-2021 Proclamation.

City Council Liaison- Mr. Sutton provided a park update regarding course woody debris. He has followed up with the parks regarding the topic. A maintenance plan is in place for debris clearing bordering trails and greenbelt areas. The parks will not attend to clearing fallen trees and branches within wooded areas. This is viewed as part of the natural ecosystem. Mr. Sutton shared there has been no additional feedback regarding the old Middle School oak trees. Mr. Butto mentioned new plans for the Middle School include the preservation of the trees. They will be part of a conservation easement hence, protected indefinitely. Mr. Sutton noted there was recent public input regarding the Engineering Dam Improvement Project at Barlow Community Center. Once an opportunity to explain replacement trees were part of the plans, concerns became limited.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison- Mrs. Lindstrom did not attend. However, an update was provided. The Garden and Outdoor Living Tour will commence June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tickets will be available online prior to the event.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder provided an update regarding the City’s landscape contractors. Areas of focus included small tree and shrub pruning. Tree mulching has been scheduled as well. Mr. Burkholder provided an update regarding the spring tree planting program. Species selection was provided. Mr. Burkholder mentioned the impact of the March 26<sup>th</sup> wind- storm. Seventeen separate locations throughout the city received same day and next day cleanup. Mr. Burkholder noted plans are in place for a boy scout Arbor Day sapling planting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Cascade Park. Mr. Brumbach has

previously volunteered to represent the Tree Commission. Linda O'Neil will represent the Parks Board. Mr. Burkholder thanked Mr. Brumbach for his services. Mr. Burkholder mentioned this could be the beginning of a merger between Tree Commission and Park Board regarding an Arbor Day event. Mr. Sutton agreed.

New Business:

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives- Based on previous Arbor Day discussions, Mr. Burkholder led members through 2021 Arbor Day plans. Further discussions regarding future event planning is warranted. Mr. South noted the importance of protecting cultural landscapes. Mr. South mentioned that not only current development may impact the preservation of trees, but future projects may threaten the urban canopy as well. Mr. South noted he was pleased to hear the historical oak trees at the former Middle School appear to be out of harm's way. Tree Commission Members agreed.

Closure to Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2021

Meeting adjourned at : 6:32 P.M.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, City Arborist/ Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman

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