

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Aug 13, 2009 at 5:30 PM

Ed Overland Room at City Hall, 381 E Main, Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Todd Fossum, Tim Carter, Jay Schotzko, Darren Marsh, Craig Wood, Rick Gullickson and Randy Nelson

Absent & Excused: Josh LaPointe, Pat Ready, Tim Berndt and Dean Tangeman

Guests: Mayor Jim Griffin

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Fossum.

1) **Approval of minutes from July 9, 2009 meeting:** Motion by Carter seconded by Schotzko to approve minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

2) **Correspondence:** *Carter* stated that EAB had been found in Kenosha and stated that our coverage on Channel 27 News was great regarding the tying of blue ribbon on Ash trees.

The 2010 Urban Forestry Grant Program Announcement Intent to Apply was received. The Committee would like to apply for a grant. *Carter* asked that staff come up with a plan stating how many trees need to be removed and replacement costs surrounding the hazardous trees from our recent Tree Inventory and in case EAB arrives in the community. *Nelson* is checking for more details surrounding the grant such as if we ask for a certain amount and our budget is decreased what are our options and if labor and vehicles count towards our share. *Nelson* will be writing the explanation and the intent to apply will be in by the deadline of Sept. 4, 2009.

Nelson announced that the SCRUFFS meeting was going to be held in Stoughton on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 from 9-Noon at the Fire Station.

3) **2010 Budget Requests:** The 2009 amounts are 1) Tree Purchasing @ \$9,000 (includes \$500 for Arbor Day), 2) Tree Removal @ \$14,000 and 3) Tree Consulting @ \$16,492. The committee agreed to submit the same amounts for 2010. *Fossum* will be writing explanations for each category and these will be submitted to the Street Superintendent to present at the Public Works meeting.

4) **Stoughton Tree Ordinances Review:** Page three of Ordinance 64-14 Street trees was reviewed with changes made in section m, #1(b), #2 (a), (b) and (c) and # 3, (a) and (b). Page 4 will need to be reviewed for the September meeting.

5) **Tree Selections and Prohibited Plantings:** *Tabled to September meeting.*

6) **Japanese Knotweed:** From July Mtg - A suggestion was made to adopt a resolution for planting it anywhere – in order to do this however, there would need to be justification and back up saying this plant is a threat. After some discussion, *Carter* suggested if the committee wants to have a moratorium staff should prepare a proposal with a statement of purpose and why as the Noxious Weed ordinance was not passed at the Council Meeting and *Carter* feels there would need a strong case in order for us to do anything.

7) **Tree Planting on Private Property:** A discussion came up about replacement trees and the possibility of being planted on private property vs. park row in order for the City to be able to plant more selections of varieties and sizes. However, *Fossum* will be emailing Street Superintendent, *Manthe*, to have him contact the City Attorney to see if this is even feasible or what liability it would create.

8) **Future Agenda Items:** Update on 2010 budget, Japanese Knotweed Moratorium, Stoughton Tree Ordinance, Prohibited Tree Planting List and Planting on Private Property

Motion by Carter seconded by Fossum to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted, Vickie Erdahl - Staff Member