

Decorah Tree Board Meeting

December 12th, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Scott Timm, Tree board chair, 5:31 pm at City Hall – commission chambers.

Meeting was recorded on Zoom.

Present: Brian Erickson, Ivy Riggs, Scott Timm, Kettle Paulsen, Drew Pellet, Tina Hall, and City Forester Sam Hogenson.

Absent: Mark Faldet

Guest: None

October Minutes Approval:

Motion to Approval Prior Minutes: Motion: Paulsen, Seconded: Erickson - Approved Unanimously

Introduction for Ivy: Each member did introduction

City Forester Report:

Old Business:

Tree Board - Seat Ending:

Mark and Drew seats are up.

Drew is going to retire.

2024 Fall Planting - Review

- Clearline (local contractor) planted 23 trees. Did great job. Biggest issue was planting areas so dry that had to use a tiller.
- \$2780
- 7 container trees all planted. 8 additional went outside the grant area (not grant funded)
- 2 dead hackberries in gravel – all rest were planted from gravel bed.
- Bur Oaks seem to not like gravel beds – they struggle.
- In total lost less than 10 than have been planted out from gravel bed.

2025 Spring Planting

- Discussed species for next year.
- No more than 50 trees.
- Past trees include Cross Nursery (bare root) and Bockman nursery - elms, linden, honey locust, alder, hackberry, white oaks, Kentucky Coffee, London Plain, sugar maple,
- Past smaller trees include – Blue beech, cherry, lilac, magnolia, red bud.
- Tulip poplar to be considered. Would like to give honey locust a break.
- Place order in December.

New Grant Proposal Completed:

- November 15 Trees Forever Grant – Sam finished grant
- 35 trees container trees
- \$5000 max in trees
- Tree species:
- River Birch, Cherry, KN coffee, Pagoda dogwood, Gingo, linden, serviceberry, yellowwood
- Mulch will be in-kind match, plus volunteers, and city equipment.
- Locations – 25 in Vennehjem
- 10 to Downing addition - needs lots of trees

City Tree Inventory:

- RFP Eocene environmental group awarded inventory. \$26,623 – Low bid accepted.
- \$3500 for software/year
- Staff (1-3) is on location in Decorah and doing inventory, be completed by mid-January
- Software includes, condition, risk, utilities, climate benefits
- About same for TreePlotter.
- City can demo the software that they use.
- All city trees inventoried in boulevard, and mowed areas of Parks.
- Start pruning before inventory ends – but inventory will help.

Tree pruning RFP after Inventory is complete:

- 2 phased main roads first, then branch out to side streets.
- Sam developing scope of work – just pruning.
- Can the contractor update in the tree inventory pruning.
- Sidewalk, road, structural as well – 3-4 main cuts to make biggest difference.
- Mid to late winter kick off.
- Will need press release and fliers to let public know.
- 1/3 of City will not be covered by this grant from pruning.

Forester Report:

- 236 water bags left. All water bags were out this year. Going to order more
- Need to Hold Arbor Day Planting Celebration
- Sam completed Tree City Growth award and Tree City of World award applications. April is recognition.

Sam Status: Sam is going to step back as a full-time employee. Remain on part-time – only forestry activities - grant, maybe planting, dealing with contractors.

Next Meeting:

23th January 5:30 at City Hall unless otherwise advised. **MOTION to Adjourn:** Motion: Erickson, Second: Paulson - Approved Unanimously

Submitted by Secretary – Tina Hall