

Decorah Tree Board Meeting

January 30th, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Scott Timm, Tree board chair, 5:34 pm at City Hall – commission chambers.

Meeting was recorded on Zoom.

Present: Brian Erickson, Mark Faldet, Scott Timm, Tina Hall, Kettle Paulsen, and City Forester Sam Hogenson.

Absent: Ivy Riggs

Guest: None

December Minutes Approval:

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

City Forester Report:

Old Business:

Tree Board - Seat Ending:

Mark Faldet – agreed to continue on board.

One seat to fill:

City Tree Inventory:

Completed

- Eocene environmental group awarded inventory.
- \$3500 for software/year
- Staff (1-3) were on location in Decorah
- Eocene software includes, condition, risk, utilities, climate benefits
- Daves Tree Keeper, Planet Geo TreePlotter (may be easiest)
- Sam will recommend a specific software after he demo's all of them.
- All city trees inventoried in boulevard, and mowed areas of Parks.
- **Total trees (may include some park) 4,100 trees boulevard trees.**
- 29% are maple (all species) 7.6% sugar
- Crab apples 6.8%
- White Oak 1.3%
- 35 ash trees left
- Also available planting sites – 2018 sites (need to be confirmed).
- 177 critical trees identified.
- Need press release – highlight

Tree pruning RFP after Inventory is complete:

- 2 phased main roads first, then branch out to side streets.
- 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.

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, magnolia, hackberry, swamp white oaks, Heritage River Birch, Kentucky Coffee, London Plain, sugar maple, yellowwood.
- Past smaller trees include – Blue beech, chokeberry, serviceberry, tree lilac, magnolia, red bud
- Tulip poplar to be considered.
- Place order in early February (waited until inventory was complete)
- Cross order would go into gravel bed.
- Arbor Day celebration (Friday April 25).
- Do Earth Day at Fair ground 26th. Need to come up with what we want at table for Earth Day
- Hold planting day after fair maybe 27th and the next Saturday.
- 20 trees for spring planting. Partner with other groups.
- Plan to plant 40-50 total for the 2025.

New Grant Proposal Completed:

- November 15 Trees Forever Grant completed.
- 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

Sam completed Tree City Growth award and Tree City of World award applications. April 3d is recognition. Award are pending at this point.

Sam Status: Still same as last month remain on part-time – only forestry activities - grant, planning plantings, planting, dealing with contractors, neighbor contact.

Next Meeting:

27th February 5:30 at City Hall unless otherwise advised. **MOTION to Adjourn:** Motion: Faldet,
Second: Erickson - Approved Unanimously

Submitted by Secretary – Tina Hall