

## **Decorah Tree Board Meeting**

**February 27th, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Scott Timm, Tree board chair, 5:33 pm at City Hall – commission chambers.

Meeting was recorded on Zoom.

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

Absent: None

Guest: None

### **December Minutes Approval:**

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

### **Tree Board:**

One seat to fill: will discuss in March

### **City Forester Report:**

#### **City Tree Inventory:**

##### **Completed**

- All city trees inventoried in boulevard, and mowed areas of Parks.
- Sam handed out data sheet on inventory of trees with all species.
- **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.
- Eocene has software we could use - \$3,000 but concern is where money will come from.

#### **Federal Grant has been canceled**

- As of February 21, 2025
- Discussion around how to fund software
- Tree pruning RFP canceled

#### **2025 Spring Planting**

- 10 trees for Spring
- Arbor Day celebration (Friday April 25).

- Do Earth Day at Fair ground 26<sup>th</sup>. Need to come up with what we want at table for Earth Day. Sam had brochures printed.
- May order trees from Iowa State Nursery - \$1 apiece. 18-24 feet range. These would be paid for by Board Members not City of Decorah and would be given away.
- Ketel will do order (try for 5 species). Sam will get with Ketel for species.
- Hold planting day after fair - April 27<sup>th</sup> **Sunday at 1 pm**, meet at Street Department and the next Saturday will be rain date.

#### **New Grant: Fall Planting**

- Trees Forever Grant.
- 35 from Trees Forever Grant (fall planting) species from Pintors - \$5,000 to spend- trees possible - River Birch, Cherry, KN coffee, Pagoda dogwood, Gingo, linden, serviceberry.
- Past smaller trees included – Blue beech, chokeberry, serviceberry, tree lilac, magnolia, red bud.
- \$5000 max in trees
- 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 - planning plantings, planting, dealing with contractors, neighbor contact.

#### **Next Meeting:**

27<sup>th</sup> March 5:30 at City Hall unless otherwise advised. **MOTION to Adjourn:** Motion: Faldet, Second: Paulsen - Approved Unanimously

Submitted by Secretary – Tina Hall