

FOREST BOARD MINUTES

February 13, 2019

PRESENT: Chairperson Leah Netherland, Forester Ryan Lewis, Mayor Tony Williams, Mick Vissing, Sarah Hitt, Dale Kinney, Sallie Schoen, Gary Robben, Shirley Robben, Michael Blum, recorder Marie Eff

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Mick made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Gary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Only Curlew and Crossbill Park and 35 right of way trees remain to be pruned. Our great progress was made by having 7 work days and hard working volunteers; thank you to all who pitched in.

The water meter has been installed in Curlew Park. BC Plumbing will follow up. The process for water installation in Oriole Park has begun.

Tony said that on the PVA website our parks are listed as 'owner unknown'. The city attorney is verifying Audubon Park as the owner. We will then have addresses created for the parks to simplify water and electric installation.

We considered buying a chipper for our brush but only large commercial machines are appropriate for the size of our tree limbs. The city owns a trailer which will be repaired and then used to transport the brush to Meriwether. We can also use the city dumpster which is emptied 2 times a week.

A letter regarding a hazard tree on the property of Audubon Park Baptist church has not been responded to. We will try to obtain the phone number of someone on the board of trustees.

A hazard tree homeowner states they are unable to pay for tree removal. Our code states this will mean a lien on their home. We will try to think of a way to make this work for both the homeowner and the city.

Marie will resubmit the paper version of the past 6 months of Forest Board minutes and Michael will digitally send them to the archivist.

FORESTER REPORT: Ryan said there are 2 groups of trees that he can see a contract arborist managing. The first group are the trees planted before volunteers planted and pruned them. These trees are healthy but overgrown and cannot be easily structurally pruned for problems such as co-dominant branching, co-dominant leaders, inclusions, multi-leading, etc. Trees need structural pruning to make them healthier, stronger and longer lived. His list of structural concerns are rated by priority with the first 7 trees to be addressed this year. The following year the next 7-10 trees will be structurally pruned and so on for the succeeding years. The Board will mail a letter to the homeowners asking for \$100.00 prepayment before initiating the work.

The second group of trees have been planted and pruned by volunteers and are generally smaller. Ryan estimates these will take less time for an arborist to prune because volunteers have worked on them yearly. Homeowners will be asked to make a prepayment of \$40.00 with the city making up the difference. Leah and Marie will compose the letter to the homeowners explaining the program.

The larger older trees on the structural concerns list will need pruning every 5-10 years.

BUDGET UPDATE: Leah explained her budget proposal which will go to council next month.

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NEW BUSINESS: The contact person for Parks and Recreation is Mitchell Kerstein. He will contact us with the playscape plan.

Tony says electric meters are being installed at the Oriole and Preston Street entrances.

Leah is meeting with the council to improve the tree code.

Tony requested input for the online tree permit. The Board needs to define emergency events that would bypass getting a tree permit. Even if the tree has been removed under emergency conditions the homeowner must still obtain a tree permit. This is the only way the Board will know if a tree has been removed.

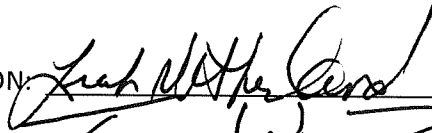
Tony would like us to think about what we could add to the enforcement code process.

Marie will ask our gardener what he can do to spruce up the Hess and Oriole entrance.

WORK DAY: To be arranged according to weather.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday March 13, 2019 6:30pm at City Hall.

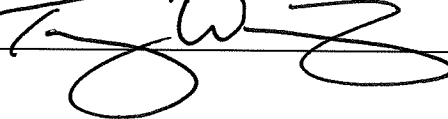
SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON:



DATE:

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SIGNATURE OF MAYOR:



DATE:

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