

Forest Board Minutes

January 9, 2019

PRESENT: Chairperson Leah Netherland, Mayor Tony Williams, City Forester Ryan Lewis, Sallie Schoen, Shirley Robben, Gary Robben, Mick Vissing, Rick Vissing, Sarah Hitt, Gil Zinner, recorder Marie Eff

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: The motion to approve the November minutes was made by Rick and seconded by Sallie.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Most of the trees in Robin and Wren Park have been pruned. Sixty-five trees have been done on the right of way. A big thank you to all who've helped keep us moving towards our goal.

Leah will reorder the 3 trees delivered damaged and the 1 tree out of stock.

Limbwalker had an estimate for spring pruning at \$400.00 per hour and another estimate for the damage after November's storm at \$600.00 per hour. The Forest Board budget will cover the spring pruning and the City budget will cover the storm damage.

The water company has yet to mark the water site in Curlew Park. A site for water access in Oriole Park will likely be on the driveway side of the Maxwell house. Tony would like the board to pick water access sites for Robin and Crossbill Parks.

Rick and Mick would like to cede the yearly planting and routine weeding of Oriole Circle to our gardener. However, they are willing to keep the island watered.

There are 3 homes on Audubon Parkway that have broken branches hanging over the street from the November storm. Tony will ask Janette to send letters to the homeowners informing them of the damage and advising them to remedy the problem.

FORESTER REPORT: Ryan reported on the 2 programs we started last year where the city of Audubon would share the cost of either tree removal or structural pruning for hazard trees. He spent many hours trying to talk to owners who weren't usually home and recovered little money from the homeowners. Instead of using his time for home visits he suggested the city hire a certified arborist to do the necessary skilled pruning. He has a person in mind who could do this work and who would be supervised by him.

Another issue is multiple contractors performing different jobs in our parks. Ryan would like to talk to the tree contractor that Jason uses to clean the parks and roads immediately after a storm. This is so we can be assured of proper tree care by outside contractors.

For the hazard tree update Ryan has 2/3s of the homes with confirmed contact and 4 households that have not confirmed contact.

Ryan reported a hazard tree letter was sent to the wrong address and has resolved the issue with the homeowner.

TW 2/13/19  
WJ 2/20/19

Ryan reminded us of enforcement issues such as leveraging control with Norfolk Southern over Robin Road's backyard trees and Audubon Country Club's right of way trees.

Ryan would like to teach the Board more about pruning methods.

BUDGET UPDATE: The updated budget was unavailable.

NEW BUSINESS: Leah stated that few people bother to get a tree permit; possibly because there is no penalty. Tony plans to start online tree permits that would go to him, Leah and Janette. This would accelerate response time and hopefully increase compliance.

Marie will work with the Garden Club on this year's budget. Tony will let us know if there are any restrictions for hiring an additional part time gardener.

Tony reported that the Audubon web page will soon include a miscellaneous complaint site.

Tony stated he would like to hire an enforcement officer and charged us with outlining what the officer would do.

Tony said the council is working on the tree ordinance.

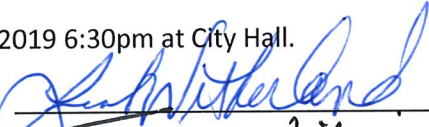
Tony suggested several new items for the parks: doggie waste bags, water fountains, concrete ping pong tables and exercise bars. The Forest Board will help decide placement for the concrete artifacts.

A large amount of brush is accumulating in the parks from pruning. Tony would like to purchase a chipper for Jason to use. Ryan will advise Tony on the type of chipper needed.

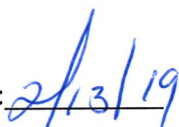
WORK DAY: January 11, 2019 at 2pm, Teal and Audubon Parkway.

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

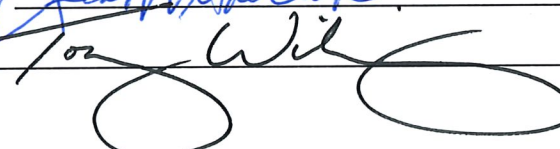
SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON:



DATE:



SIGNATURE OF MAYOR:



DATE:

