

FOREST BOARD MINUTES

June 9, 2021

PRESENT: Chairperson Michael Blum, City Forester Ryan Lewis, Leah Netherland, Aaron Morris, Bill Rising, Tony Williams, recorder Marie Eff

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Leah made a motion to approve the minutes for June 2021, Shirley seconded the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Welcome to new board member Bill Rising.

Michael has relinquished his chair position but will remain on the Board. Many thanks Michael, for all your hard work.

Welcome to Aaron Morris our new Board chair.

FORESTER REPORT: Ryan will begin the nuisance tree inventory and notify by mail the homeowners who must prune or remove their tree. He will also conduct a tree condition survey.

All homeowners have responded to the nuisance letters sent earlier this year.

Park Dogwood Project: The park dogwoods are declining more quickly than their natural rate of attrition and few of them are actually healthy. Each year several of the older large ones die. It's also difficult to keep the newly planted trees alive. The dogwoods suffer maladies such as powdery mildew, leaf rust, anthracnose, insect pests, girdling, trimming, lawn mowing, compaction, poor filtration, poor drainage and loss of shade as the canopy dies. Pre-soil samples show little fungal support.

Healthy trees are less susceptible to secondary problems which is why Ryan has implemented a restoration/preservation project. All of the dogwood root collars have been excavated to prepare for an application of solid granular compost followed by special liquid solutions. Soil samples will be taken after treatment to assess microbial content. Ryan will mark the treated trees with a ribbon.

BUDGET: We have \$20,000.00 left for this fiscal year.

NEW BUSINESS: Tony announced that residents can now do a word search of our ordinances.

A new wheelbarrow has been purchased by City Hall.

Ryan will ask Limbwalker when they last pruned the large park trees.

For almost a decade the Board has supplied residents with water bags. Ryan said we could mostly dispense with the bags because they are actually designed for two inch caliper trees. In certain situations where it would be helpful, we could still offer them. The current best practice for new trees is to water with 2 gallons every couple of days.

Marie will call for more mulch for Wren Park. Leah will let the gardeners know when it arrives.

The Water Company said that the Robin Park water spigot cannot be installed on the Wren Road side. An application has been resubmitted for the Robin Road side.

Ten to fifteen trees are to be planted this fall. Ryan and Tony will send Leah a list of tree sites that need replanting.

Leah will compose the form letter that lets the homeowner know their tree must be replaced. Tony will let Leah know the applicable code numbers that mandate replacement. Otto is the person responsible for notifying the homeowner when a new tree must be planted.

WORK DAY: To be decided per email.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 6:30pm at City Hall or on Zoom.

SIGNATURE OF CHAIRPERSON: Michael B DATE: 12/14/21

SIGNATURE OF MAYOR: Ty W DATE: 12/14/21

Janet M 12-14-21