

FOREST BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 10, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor, Dorn Crawford, Chairperson Leah Netherland, City Forester Ryan Lewis, Nancy Shelton, Marie Eff, Dale Kinney, Mick Vissing, and Gil Zinner.

The meeting convened at 6:25 pm.

MINUTES: Mick made a motion to accept the minutes without correction. Marie seconded the motion. All approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Leah reported that several volunteers worked on spreading the mulch pile in Oriole and Triangle and the City's public works employee, Jason, and his brother spread the mulch under the swings in Triangle and Oriole. It was decided that no new mulch is needed for now. The next park to be mulched will be Curlew.

Leah reported that progress has been made on the 2017 Park List. Jason trimmed two Holly trees, one in Triangle and one in Curlew. Ryan will be removing a multi stemmed Basswood.

Leah reported that approximately 42 of 160 easement trees have been pruned by her and Marie.

The hazard tree on Robin has still not been removed despite a letter being sent. Dorn will follow up on this. The Mittels are supposed to be removing two trees on their property on Robin.

FORESTER REPORT:

Ryan reported that he looked at about 40 medium sized right of way trees that are beyond the scope of volunteers to prune. He is looking at finding a provider who will give us an overall bid and then cost could be shared between the homeowner and the City. Estimates are difficult due to variation in size and the volume of work to be completed. Homeowners would have to be convinced of the need. Initial estimates from Limbwalker indicated that trees with a trunk diameter of less than 8" would be \$120, 8"-10" \$180, 12" \$240 and above 12" \$360. Leah questioned if Limbwalker would give separate cost on trees where the first 1-2 cuts need to be made to remove double leaders. Leah asked Ryan to work up a letter to go to homeowners of 20 targeted trees. There was discussion about the split of cost with homeowners and how much of an incentive they would likely need to participate. Several members felt that 50% cost sharing would be appropriate.

BUDGET:

Leah reported that budget contained \$6350 for tree plantings in easements. Only \$1750 has been spent with another \$2000 projected, leaving a surplus of \$3600. Much of the savings was due to not doing site preparation. No money has been spent planting trees in the parks so \$1440 is available. The general maintenance money for fertilizer, mulch, etc. has also not been spent so \$1380 is available. This leaves a total of \$6420 available for reallocation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Leah proposed spending \$3665 of the \$6420 to proceed with the water line for Henderson Park.

Leah further proposed hiring a part time person to assist with pruning easement and parks and weeding in the parks. At \$40/hr we could afford approximately 50 hours with the \$2575 remaining. She has requested that Dorn talk to the City lawyer about a waiver since the proposed gardener has no insurance and getting insurance is prohibitively expensive.

There was discussion of the new 2017 Metro Tree Ordinance. Although this does not cover Audubon Park it is a good example to follow with our own ordinances. It states that any tree taken down in the easement must be replaced within a year.

There was discussion of the leaves dumped around the dogwoods that might be causing soil buildup. This practice was a holdover from several years ago and will be stopped.

There was discussion of reprinting and distributing the flyers about the Ash removal program to all homeowners with Ash trees.

WORK DAY:

A work day will be held on January 20, depending on the weather.

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

There was discussion about Leah's contact with Leroy Jackson about removing his Ashh tree.

There was discussion about the volcano mulching of the new trees planted at Audubon Elementary School.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:30 pm at City Hall.

SIGNATURE OF _____ DATE _____
CHAIRPERSON _____