

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2023, SPRING TREE BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the March 6th meeting are being reviewed from notes due to the failure of the recording device.

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Parks and Facilities office at 305 E. Lincoln. Members present: jeff Perkins, Brian Houser, Tom Lundahl, Mike Henton and Mike Neuzil. Advisor to the Board Tony Gowan was also present.

Perkins asked that the minutes of the December 5, 2022, meeting be reviewed and approved. Motion by Houser, second by Henton. All were in favor of approving the minutes.

Old Business was then discussed.

City Code recommendation changes of the Tree Board: Gowan informed the Board that the changes that the Board themselves presented were now going to the city attorneys for review. These changes, which more accurately define the roles of the Board, represents what the Tree Board has been performing for many years now, that of an advisory board, not a regulatory board, in matters pertaining to annual grants. Gowan had the Board review the main body of the changes with their suggestions included, and it was met with approval. The Board had a question on when the new changes would go into effect; Gowan informed the Board that the code updates were to begin in the fall.

New Business

Gowan presented the Board with the annual figures pertaining to Tree City USA status and the numbers per capita were \$ 4.65 dollars spent on tree care per citizen. This is a bit higher than prior years mainly due to the large tree removals of old Ash stricken with EAB in the Arboretum. The Board asked what we could be expecting for losses this fall concerning EAB? Gowan stated that they have at least 5 Ash trees in the Arboretum slated for removal at this time, and those removals would happen in the fall.

Gowan informed the Board that he had received approval from the NRD Celebrate Trees grant team to move the plantings of the trees in Halleck Park, around the large playground area, to the fall. This was asked to change from the normal spring planting deadline in prior years, due to the extreme harsh nature of the summers we have been enduring, and those detrimental effects that has on newly planted trees. The Board thought this was a good idea. Gowan also informed the Board that the NRD is looking to this, and may change the deadline dates to fall, as we had

been granted; they are hearing this from other communities as well. Perkins asked how the trees the Board planted last fall with the “Ten Free Trees” grant we received. Gowan stated that all had made it through winter and were doing well at this time. House commented on the poor quality of these trees and if that was something that could be addressed in later years if the program we to continue? Gowan stated that he had heard from the Administrators of the program, and they too had heard comments on the general poor quality of the trees and were taking steps to make sure that did not happen again in future programs.

Gowan informed the Board that Arbor Day is set and ready to go. The event will be held at Big Elk Lake and will honor the legacy of Big Elk, along with the cooperative nature between the city and the NRD. NRD Director John Thompson will be the keynote speaker. The poster judging contest was discussed and the date and time were settled upon on April 17th at 6:00 p.m. Gowan informed the Board that he would be in touch with Jackie fowler at the PJWC to let her know.

No other business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. Motion made by Houser, seconded by Perkins, all in favor.