

Decorah Tree Board

March 30, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Chairman Jeremy Bril in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Jeremy Bril, Dick Guilgot, Roger Timp, Peter van der Linden, and City Forester Robin Sailor.

MOTION by Timp, second by Guilgot: to approve the minutes of the February meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Sailor and Bril reported on contacts with property owners along Montgomery Street regarding the trees to be planted this spring. The County Fair Board does not want trees planted adjacent to the fairgrounds, which eliminates about 20 trees proposed for the route. Bruening Rock Products and the Winneshiek Medical Center do not object to trees along their portions of the street.

Bril presented a budget for the Montgomery Street planting, including \$4,675 for 54 trees and \$250 to ship the trees. Tree guards and water bladders for these trees would cost \$270 and \$1,080 respectively, not including shipping. Sailor has already ordered the trees, whose cost is covered by the Power of Trees grant. The grant funds cannot be used for the tree guards and water bladders.

MOTION by van der Linden, second by Timp to purchase the tree guards and water bladders as proposed, using funds from the Tree Board's regular budget. Motion carried.

Sailor presented a "to do" list for the Montgomery Street planting, which is scheduled for April 22. Guilgot offered to coordinate safety tasks. Sailor will handle tree-planting preparation, and Timp offered to water the trees after planting. Van der Linden will prepare a news release. Everyone will help with clean up and equipment gathering after the event.

There was discussion about how to recruit volunteers to help with the planting. Brad Johansen's high school class may be able to plant trees on a day preceding the event; Sailor will follow up. Timp will attempt to contact the Boy Scouts. Student groups at Luther might also be willing to help.

The Tree Board will meet again at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 19 to finish planning for the planting project.

The Lions Club and city Parks and Recreation Department are planning a new "Pancake for Parks" event from 8:00 to 11:00 am at John Cline School on April 22. Sailor will be helping with this event. Van der Linden volunteered to staff a table offering Tree Board information until the Montgomery Street planting begins at 10:00 am. Bril will assist if possible.

Because fewer trees will be planted along Montgomery Street than originally proposed, the Tree Board will not expend all the Power of Trees grant on the project. MOTION by van der Linden, second by Guilgot: if the grantor agrees, to use the remaining grant funds to purchase trees from local vendors to plant in

neighborhoods close to Montgomery Street. Motion carried. It was agreed to plant these trees along boulevards where ash trees have been removed recently, no more than one per property owner. Brill will follow-up with Trees Forever.

Timp noted that two trees have been severely damaged by deer behind the Alliant Energy property. MOTION by van der Linden, second by Guilgot: to replace the trees damaged by deer behind the Alliant property. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary