

Decorah Tree Board

June 29, 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, and Peter van der Linden.

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

The budget was discussed. The current year's budget for boulevard trees was overspent by \$225. There was a consensus that the Tree Board should request a budget increase so more trees can be planted in the city. The budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY 2018, beginning July 1) has already been set, but according to Bril, based on his discussion with the City Manager, the Board can request an adjustment next April. Any increase for FY 2019 (beginning July 1, 2018) will need to be submitted by December 2017.

Bril has submitted the final report to Black Hills Energy's Power of Trees program for grant funds expended this spring.

Bril has submitted a new proposal to Alliant Energy's Branching Out program to plant 40 trees this fall. \$1,500 of the Tree Board's FY 2018 budget would be used as a match.

It was noted that funders have different requirements on how grants can be used. The Branching Out program offers funds for plantings in public places only, not on private property. The Power of Trees program is more flexible on where trees can be planted.

The City Manager has asked the Tree Board to review the portions of Decorah's city code that pertain to trees. Some members of the Board have already done so. Bril asked other members of the Board to review the code so it can be discussed with the City Forester at our next meeting.

There was a discussion about whether or not the voucher program should remain closed until next spring. MOTION by van der Linden, second by Timp: to approve vouchers on an ongoing basis as they are submitted. Motion carried.

There is confusion about whether or not Drew Stevenson has applied and been appointed to the Board. Bril will investigate.

There will be no July meeting unless the need arises, as the usual date conflicts with Nordic Fest.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Submitted by Peter van der Linden, Secretary