

Decorah Tree Board

October 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by Chairman Jeremy Bril in the City Council Chambers.

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

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

Bril circulated a report he has written to the grantor about this fall's planting.

Van der Linden reported that the city-wide survey of boulevard trees is complete.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Timp: to open bidding for 2018 plantings to local nurseries. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about when and where to plant trees in 2018. At least 19 new trees will be needed to replace trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer in boulevards. Bril is working on a grant proposal to fund 2018 planting and will submit it to the grantor by the November 1 deadline.

Alliant Energy has expressed interest in sponsoring a tree planting in honor of its 100th anniversary in Decorah.

There was a discussion about how to improve pruning of boulevard trees in Decorah. Some possible solutions: 1) circulate a booklet that has been published by Iowa State University Extension, 2) offer neighborhood pruning workshops taught by Tree Board members or other trained volunteers, 3) recruit volunteers to directly advise homeowners who need assistance. No action was taken.

Sailor reported on a potential collaboration involving the City of Decorah, utility companies, and the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Foundation has an interactive mapping website that allows property owners to select trees that can then be ordered from the Foundation. In Decorah, such trees could be placed in boulevards near mature trees that conflict with power lines, eventually replacing those trees. The property owners could only select trees approved by the City, which in these locations would be limited to smaller species. Sailor suggested 5th Avenue as a prime location for a project like this.

It was agreed to hold the November meeting on Thursday, Nov. 16. The budget and City Tree Ordinance will be discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Submitted by Peter van der Linden, Secretary