

## **Decorah Tree Board**

December 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeremy Brill at 5:35 pm in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Jeremy Brill, Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, and Peter van der Linden. City Forester Robin Sailor participated remotely via telephone. Resident Scott Timm also attended.

MOTION by Guilgot, second by Faldet: to approve the minutes of the November 16 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Sailor's proposed "The City of Decorah Urban Forestry Plan" was reviewed. Comments were favorable. It was agreed to adjust the dollar amounts under "Proposed Work Schedule and Estimated Costs" so they matched the amounts listed in the Tree Board's FY2019 budget request to the City Council.

The City is currently removing dead and dying ash trees in boulevards and parks. The Board discussed how to deal with such trees on private property. Despite the potential hazard to neighbors, some homeowners might fail to remove these trees because of the cost. If necessary, the City can have a tree removed and assess the cost to the property owner. Would the City consider spreading these assessments over several years? If so, it would need a fund it could tap to pay the costs of removal until all assessments had been collected.

Timm, who is employed by Iowa State University Extension, stressed the need for education and outreach about Emerald Ash Borer and other tree issues. The Extension Service should be able to help. One possibility is the "Rising Stars" program which provides interns to help with community needs.

MOTION by van der Linden, second by Faldet: to make three budget requests to the City Council: 1) \$4,000 for the voucher program, 2) \$4,000 for matching funds for grants, and 3) \$5,000 for education and outreach. Motion carried.

Edits were suggested to draft budget requests prepared and circulated by Brill before the meeting. Brill will revise and e-mail the requests to Board members for further review.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm. The next meeting will be January 25.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary