

Decorah Tree Board

August 30, 2018

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

Present: Jeremy Brill, Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, Scott Timm, and Peter van der Linden.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Guilgot: to approve the minutes of the June 28 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Brill reported that the City is exploring options for the vacant City Forester position.

Total Tree Care has been awarded the contract to remove trees in boulevards for the City, but the City has not yet provided a list of those trees. The Board reviewed two lists of suggested removals prepared by the former City Forester. These were titled "Ash Tree Master List" and "Other Tree Removal List".

MOTION by van der Linden, second by Guilgot: to recommend to the City Manager that the City remove the 39 trees on the Ash Tree Master List and Other Tree Removal List in the following order of priority: 1) dead standing trees, 2) ash trees, and 3) other trees. Motion carried.

Brill will prepare a spread sheet of trees to remove. It was agreed that City staff should mark the trees; Tree Board members can assist in locating the trees and notifying property owners.

Given the vacancy in the City Forester position, it would be desirable to delay this fall's tree planting (funded by the Branching Out grant) until next spring. MOTION by van der Linden, second by Faldet: to request permission from the grantor to postpone the planting until spring. Motion carried.

The Decorah Rotary Club would like to apply for a matching grant from their Rotary district. This grant and the club's match would provide \$5,000, which the club would then use as a match to apply for a \$5,000 grant from Alliant Energy. The \$10,000 so raised would be used to plant trees along Short and Mechanic Streets. The Tree Board agreed to assist with grant writing and planning; if the grant is received, Rotary will plant the trees.

Adjourned at 6:47pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary