

## **Decorah Tree Board**

August 29, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, Drew Pellett, Scott Timm, Peter van der Linden, City Engineer Jeremy Brill, and City Forester Sam Hogenson.

MOTION by Guilgot, second by Faldet: to approve the minutes of the June 13 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

New City Forester Sam Hogenson was introduced and spoke briefly about his background and current work.

The work of the Tree Board was reviewed including its powers and duties under City Code.

Timm reviewed the background of the grant that was received in June from Black Hills Energy. The Tree Board had applied for the grant in advance of last spring's planting along Mechanic and Short Streets, intending for it to be used for that project along with funds committed by the local Rotary club. However, consideration of our proposal and approval of the grant were delayed, and the funds were not received until after the project was completed. Instead, money from the Tree Board's budget was used to pay for the trees.

There was discussion about how to account for and use the grant. No action was taken, but the Board's preference was to use the funds for a new project. Timm will consult with the funder and the City Manager and report back to the Board.

City staff has been removing dead and hazardous trees. A contractor has been handling stump grinding (including replacement of soil and seeding of grass). Brill and Hogenson believe this is the most practical way to deal with stumps, and the arrangement will continue for the time being.

MOTION by van der Linden, second by Guilgot: to allocate up to \$3,000 from the Tree Board's budget to give homeowners free trees to replace boulevard trees removed by the City. Motion carried.

The Board will hold a working meeting on Thursday, September 5 at 5:30pm to plant two sycamore trees near the swimming pool and replace supports on trees planted and staked last spring along Mechanic and Short Streets.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary