

Decorah Tree Board

December 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:31pm in the City Council Chambers.

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

MOTION by Faldet, second by Guilgot: to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2021 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Brent Parker has resigned from the Board and van der Linden won't be seeking reappointment when his term expires on December 31. The 3-year terms of Faldet, Guilgot, and Pellett also end on December 31. All three agreed to serve another term if reappointed by the mayor. That leaves two vacancies to fill. Gender balance is a concern.

For reasons of safety and liability, property owners should remove dead or EAB-infested ash trees. Some are not doing so and need to be advised of their responsibility. Hogenson will prepare a press release, but it is expected that even if informed, some property owners will not comply because of cost or for other reasons. Hogenson will discuss the matter with the city manager.

Hogenson has purchased more tree guards; Faldet agreed to install some on unprotected trees in boulevards.

Hogenson reported that stump grinding in boulevards will resume in the spring; 50 stumps remain. There are still 29 trees to remove in boulevards, most of them ash. He also noted that the trees planted by the Board along Montgomery Street need structural pruning. Faldet reported that trees along Commerce Drive also need pruning.

The meeting adjourned at 6:29pm. Next meeting: January 27 at 5:30pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary