

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

April 17, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Mike Smith (2 hrs.)

Bob Giede (2 hrs.)

Cindy Gilberts (2 hrs.)

Nancy Schofield (3 hrs.)

Joe Jax (3 hrs.)

Mike Schendel (3 hrs.)

Eric Sutherland (2 hrs.)

Guests: Randy Eide, John Johnson, Sue Hitz, Dawn, August, and Bob from Excel Energy. Members of the public were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Joe Jax, Chair. Roll call was taken by passing around a sign-up sheet and recording the volunteer hours. Minutes of the previous meeting were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and were reviewed. A motion was made by Mike Schendel to accept the minutes of March 20th, and was seconded by Bob Giede. Motion carried.

Xcel Energy Landscaping Exception Request: Excel Energy discussed the proposed new substation on Gabriel Court. They would like to offer \$5,000 in lieu of planting shrubs and trees. They would probably cut 8-9 trees. Motion was made by Dennis Kropp to wave the tree and shrub planting and accept the \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Mike Smith. Motion carried.

Gravel Bed Nursery: A gravel bed nursery is in the process of being built at the landfill. There is water and electricity available. We would like to start with thirty trees. Take the \$5,000 from Excel and put towards the cost of building the nursery. The committee agreed.

Request to Drop Select Lake Bank Trees: The organizations represented have concerns. There was a lot of discussion about water sports and fishing. Any trees that will be taken down and fall within 10 ft. of shore line will need to be cabled immediately. It was decided that group will need to be formed and have Kasey from the DNR to help identify which trees can be dropped. Dennis Kropp from the Forestry Board made a motion to form a committee and come back with a report. The motion was seconded by Eric Sutherland. Motion carried. The Lake Bank Committee to review the identified trees will consist of John Johnson, Bob Giede, and Gary Buss from the Dunn Co. Fish & Game, Peter and Patrick from the Menomonie Improvement Assoc. along with Kasey. No action taken other than forming the committee.

Items to add to the Agenda: None

Urban Forester Report: The draft policy was reviewed. Randy Eide will add a paragraph to the policy and bring it back to the Urban Forestry Board.

Arbor Day (April 26th) Celebration Plans: The City received their 29th Tree City Award. The Arbor Day plans are:

1. Location-Wakanda School, three classes of 5th graders at 10 A. M.
2. Plant a tree pending on weather
3. Award to Hampton Inn (planted over the amount of 13 trees, and many shrubs).
4. Speaker: Marie Young will speak on birds.

Park Superintendent Report: The tree planting program is on hold at present to see if the committee would like to use these fund to help build the gravel bed nursery. There are two citizens that have expressed interest in the planting program this year.

Brad Johnson DNR Urban Forestry Coordinator scheduled to speak at our next meeting. He will talk about his position and how the DNR is involved in Urban Forestry.

City Council Report: Eric Sutherland was up for election and he won his ward. Eric was assigned to the Urban Forestry Board.

1. 21st Street was sent back for review
2. 17th Ave Project-Passed

Items for the next meeting:

1. Arbor Day Celebration Comments
2. Gravel Bed Nursery Update
3. Report on request to drop select Lake Bank Trees
4. Draft Policy Update
5. Review 17th Ave Plan
6. Brad Johnson-DNR Urban Forestry Speaker

Fair Booth Application: The entire committee agreed to have John Johnson sign up.

Next Meeting: May 15, 2019, 2 P. M. at the Conference Room in City Hall.

Submitted by: Sue Hitz