Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday December 10, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short, and Dean Tangeman

Absent & Excused: Jim Fitzgibbon and Fred Hundt

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Admin Asst. Vickie Erdahl

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:06 PM

1) **Communications:**
   - *Kemppainen* announced that the Tree City USA application had been completed and will be submitted in the next week
   - Discussed the spring Tree City USA on line conference which will be free and John can sign up multiple other attendees. Mitch Bergeson asked to be registered.

2) **Approval of minutes from November 12, 2020 Meeting: Motion by Short, seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**

3) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:

November:

- Significant time was spent organizing and supervising fall tree trimming with Tree Wise Men. Over 225 trees were trimmed in the Bjoin Park neighborhood as well as the far north-center of Stoughton, between Page Street and Lincoln Avenue.
- Work continues in Amundson Park to remove ash trees. Only a few trees remain-water levels have made it difficult to access them.
- I attended Arbor Day Partners in Community Forestry conference-virtually. The event had a theme of community engagement and partnerships and provided valuable context and information.
- I was a speaker during the Urban Wood Network's first annual national conference, which was held in conjunction with the Arbor Day conference.
- I spoke during an urban forestry career day on November 12. The event was held virtually. Several classrooms attended the event and it was also recorded and made available through the states LEAF program for educators.
- A Request for Quotes was generated and distributed to interested tree service contractors for tree trimming contract starting in 2021. Multiple vendors have already called to discuss the work and I am confident we will receive multiple bids for the work.

  Meeting report outs – Kemppainen stated that bids were due December 16th and that trimming of trees 6" or less will be done in house. The larger trees will be trimmed by whomever is awarded the trimming contract.

4) **Discussion on Zoning / Landscape Ordinance:** *Subcommittee* held another meeting which the following items were discussed -

   - Shrubs (tall, medium & low) to include and point values for each were discussed
   - Non-contributory plants were identified and classified at zero points – this category included existing trees already planted that are above the 35% level in the inventory for the city, so for diversity reasons – no points given.

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The document was reviewed by committee and the following changes were made after discussion:

1. The dawn redwood was added to the Climax category
2. Corrections made for spelling and grammatical errors
3. Added to Appendix B was a column for “reforestation” rf – with botanical name
4. Add to footnotes – Missouri Botanical Garden List as a source

Bergeson will be drafting a cover letter to send with the document after the final review at January’s meeting which will be sent to Michael Stacey, Zoning Administrator for his review.

5) <u>2021 DNR Grant – Gravel Beds, Outreach and Tree Application / Criteria:</u> Tabled. The grant has still not been announced to the public at this time. Committee is discussing ways to inform the public and what the guidelines will be.

6) <u>Future Agenda Items:</u> 2021 DNR Grant – gravel beds and outreach, Landscape / Zoning Ordinance Review

Motion by Short seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Respectfully submitted 12/17/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

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