

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 22nd, 2023

Location: City Administration Building – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Doug Elsner, Jon Simon, Caleb Whalen, Nikk Dickerson

Staff Present: Brad Rademacher, Dave Gerhartz

Guests Present: None

Agenda Items	Discussion Summary	Actions
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 5:13 PM by Brad Rademacher.	
Introductions and Onboarding	The commission welcomed new members and shared introductions. Incoming members are Doug Elsner, Nikk Dickerson, and Caleb Whalen. Outgoing members are Roger Wacek, Roger Warehime, Jim Linder, and Chuck Newgard.	
Approval of Agenda	Approval of meeting agenda for May 22 nd , 2023.	Motion by Doug Elsner. Second by Jon Simon. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.
Approval of Minutes	Approval of meeting minutes from October 9 th , 2019.	Motion by Doug Elsner. Second by Nikk Dickerson. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.
Old Business	Brief review of relevant information from previous meetings and recap of current boulevard tree statistics. The tree dashboard and most recent MN DNR tree survey was shared with the group.	
New Business	<p><u>Review Member Terms:</u> The commission reviewed current member terms and expirations. All terms expire April 30th of the year of expiration. Members are eligible to serve 3 consecutive 4-year terms. One of seven seats remain open on the commission currently. The commission reviewed member roles, duties, and bylaws.</p> <p><u>Update Contact Information:</u> The commission was asked to provide updated contact information. Email will be the primary method of communication.</p>	

<p>New Business Cont.</p>	<p><u>Consent Forms and Oath of Office:</u> Media Consent forms were signed by commission members who were present. Remaining members will need to sign at next meeting. Oath of Office was administered to Doug Elsner at previous City Council meeting. Oath of Office was administered by Brad Rademacher and witnessed by Dave Gerhartz during tonight's Shade Tree Commission meeting. Nikk Dickerson will need to take Oath at next meeting.</p>	
<p>City Staff Updates</p>	<p><u>General:</u> Dave provided an update to the group regarding recent tree care by the forestry crew. The commission discussed the Shade Tree Ordinance (Code 97.00), which can be found on the City's code website. Owatonna, MN Laws (amlegal.com) The group reviewed the approved boulevard tree list and associated regulations. This will likely be revisited annually. Dave has been recommending Ohio Buckeye and Red Maple as replacements and new plantings with a goal of diversifying species.</p> <p><u>Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):</u> Dave G. provided an updated regarding the status of EAB in our community. We have just over 900 ash trees in our boulevards, and all have been treated with insecticide. The treatment is effective for 2-3 years and the trees are on rotation for treatment. Many boulevard ash trees have been removed and the crew targets trees that pose an immediate threat, damaged, dying, or small in diameter. Although treatment is expensive, mature trees provide a higher overall lifetime benefit and the cost for treatment is justified for these larger trees. In general, the treatment appears to be effective within our community. The group discussed the importance of public education and awareness.</p> <p><u>Arbor Day Plantings:</u> Dave recapped Arbor Day plantings for retirees. There were 11 retirees in 2022, of which 10 wanted a memorial tree to be planted. Species included Northern Red Oak, Ivory Silk Lilac, Kentucky Coffee, and Red Maple at various locations including West Hills Campus, Morehouse Park, Brown Park, and the Fairgrounds.</p>	
<p>Other Discussion</p>	<p>Question was asked regarding where to direct calls pertaining to boulevard trees. These questions should be directed to the public works main line at 507-444-4350.</p> <p>Question was asked regarding trees at intersections. They City responds to complaints related to the visibility triangle and trimming needs.</p> <p>Question was asked regarding spruce trees and mites. Mites are commonly treated with an insecticide spray and by keeping the branches trimmed such that they do not contact the ground.</p> <p>A suggestion was made the group should look at more than just trees in the boulevard and oversight should include refuse, dumpsters, weeds, etc.</p>	

Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM by Brad Rademacher.	
Next Meeting	Date: Monday October 16 th , 2023 at 5:00 PM Location: City Administration Building - 2 nd Floor Conference Room	

Respectfully,

Bradley D. Rademacher