



OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE TREE BOARD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2024 AT 5:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN STREET, RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Cairns, and a quorum was present; the meeting had been properly noticed.

ROLL CALL: Tree Board members: Ryan Cairns, Larry Hallett, Mark Chambers. City Forester: Tess Barr-Hamblin. Absent: Ron Fruit, Steve Downs.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Review and Discuss City Tree Ordinance:** Barr-Hamblin discussed a goal to review the Tree Ordinance and advise the Council regarding changes. Barr-Hamblin presented an example of a Tree Ordinance created by Tree City USA. Hallett expressed concerns regarding some rules in the current ordinance that are confusing, harsh or hard to enforce. Chambers asked if the goal was to adopt the Tree City USA ordinance. Barr-Hamblin stated that this is a good example to start from due to clearer language but would require adding details. Cairns stated that we should not be writing anything as council is working on it but should work on suggesting changes. **Attorney Windell entered meeting.** Barr-Hamblin asked what process should be for sending out nuisance tree letters. Windell said to send a letter giving them the option to appeal. If we have to correct the problem we will need to hold a hearing. Give a reasonable time frame to correct the problem. Get a copy of quote from tree cutter.

CITY FORESTER UPDATE

1. **Stewardship Day report:** Barr-Hamblin reported that only families of those putting on event attended. One tree was planted and mayor read proclamation, which fulfills Tree City requirements. Planted a Tulip Tree in Mill Pond Park. Low attendance probably due to Morel fest weekend, GRACE, Wine Walk.
2. **Tree Cutting update:** Barr-Hamblin reported that Street department is doing trimming with construction project. A list of trees needing to be cut in the upcoming fall/winter has been started.
3. **Hazard Tree update:** Barr-Hamblin reported that she has started reviewing properties that received letters in the fall. Some haven't been done and she will need to send out another round of letters. Mainly Ash Trees. Cairns mentioned a tree at Robin's Nest that needs to be cut. Barr-Hamblin reported about a tree by the hospital that was badly damaged in a storm and homeowner is working with ADRC and has a tree cutter lined up. Cairns asked how citizens contact the Forester. Barr-Hamblin recommended contacting her by email or by calling the Buildings and Grounds Department.
4. **Spongy Moth information:** Barr-Hamblin reported that the Spongy Moth (formerly Gypsy Moth) are in the large caterpillar stage. They usually do not kill trees but do a lot of damage to leaves. Hallett inquired if the city is planning to spray and Barr-Hamblin stated that that was not planned. Barr-Hamblin also mentioned Anthracnose as a tree issue that has been bad this Spring but typically clears up with summer weather.

REPORTS, REQUESTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Work on ordinance. If anybody finds anything in between please share.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Meeting Set for Wednesday, September 18 at 5:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT