

# COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

March 13, 2018

Members Present: Andy Campbell, Chair, Scott Hofeling, Larry Anderson, Emily Casper and Kendall Weyers  
Members Absent: Mary Sweeney Eric North  
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Bob Weyhrich, Lorri Grueber, Mark Canney and Janet Ball  
Staff Absent: NONE

Chair, Andy Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. He pointed out the Open Meeting Act posted by the door. Scott made a motion to accept a change to the agenda, Larry seconded, voted, approved.

**Minutes:** Per Andy, Eric had notified him of a change in the December minutes. Larry made a motion to approve the December minutes as corrected, Scott seconded, voted minutes approved.

Andy Campbell introduced staff members to the 11 guests in attendance.

**Public Comments:** (See Emerald Ash Borer)

Andy read the following: The Community Forestry Advisory Board provides advice and recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Mayor and the City Council. The Board welcomes comments from fellow citizens. We ask that comments be limited to an item on today's agenda during consideration of that item. There is also an opportunity to speak on a topic not specifically on the agenda after approval of the minutes. We ask that comments and presentations be limited to five (5) minutes. Those speaking are encouraged to focus on presenting new information, rather than repeating prior points or information. Speakers may note their support for comments presented by a preceding speaker. Please state your name and address at the beginning of your comments for the record of this meeting. A podium is provided for speakers.

The following citizens were at the meeting to comment regarding the proposed Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Respond and Recovery Plan: Marianne Woeppel, Mary Roseberry-Brown, Nancy Packard, Anne Pamperl, Jewel R., Rob Gorden, Brian Jung, Nancy Hicks, Sam Welsch, Patty Snitzer, and Mike McNiff.

**Emerald Ash Borer:** Lynn Johnson, Parks Director, gave an overview of the EAB Response and Recovery Plan. Lynn reports that of the 112,000 public trees in Lincoln, 12% are Ash trees. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) effects trees quickly and a majority of Ash trees die within nine to ten years after the insect moves in to a community. Once a tree dies from the EAB, it becomes brittle very quickly, making removal a greater danger. Since the trees are so brittle, any branch that drops to the ground shatters, making clean-up more time consuming and messy. Forestry would prefer removing live, green trees rather than dead trees.

Goals:

1. Protect citizens and their property
2. Engage community

We are currently gearing up by adding more staff and purchasing more equipment. The plan is to remove 500 trees a year for the first two years and beginning in year three we hope to remove and replace 1,000 trees. By year 11, a private contractor will be hired to remove trees over 18" in diameter.

**Public comments (con't)**

Mary Rosemary Brown: had sent several attachments regarding the damage neonicotinoid chemicals do to pollinators and if the City plans to use chemicals to prolong the inevitable, she would rather see the trees removed than to treat them. Her handouts have been shared with the Board.

Peter Smith: was not in attendance but had sent comments. (See attached to meeting summary.)

Nancy Packard: is also concerned about the use of chemicals.

Ann Pamperl: Is with us representing her Homeowners Association. They have 52 Ash trees in the commons area and will be raising dues to help fund removal. She asked if the insects freeze and if firewood from the trees can be kept. Lynn replied no, they do not freeze. The wood needs to be chipped down to a very small size or burned immediately to kill EAB.

Jewell R.: Lives at 1000 E Street and reports that the area close to her is losing 40 Ash trees within ten blocks. She said that the lower income homes could use some upkeep and thinks the wood from the Ash trees would rebuild porches, new railings and other home improvements. Lynn commented that the trunks are not long enough to mill. A mill wants straight logs that are at least eight foot long. Also it is costly to find a saw mill and get the wood milled and dried. Bob W said they recently sent two loads of ash trunks to mill.

Rob Gordon: Rob is with Arborjet Inc., a tree injection company headquartered in Woburn, MA. He gave a talk regarding injections of his product and claimed that all Ash trees can be saved for very little money.

Brian Tung: Concerned with use of chemicals.

Nancy Hicks: Just here to listen

Sam Welsch: Lives at 4501 E Eden but his business is at 1021 D Street, prefers that the City avoid use of pesticides that impact the environment. He also prefers that we cut larger trees earlier and get them replanted earlier.

Patty Spitzer: is concerned about the environmental impact and asked “if the EAB is not in Lincoln yet, why can't we prevent it from coming here?”

Mike McNiff: reports that he lives downtown so no Ash there. He is on different Boards that establish fees. He expressed concern that City crews could actually remove trees at a lesser cost than private contractors. He request that no pesticides be used due to concern about cancer in people

Community Outreach Forester, Lorri Grueber reports that two neighborhoods will have trees replaced this spring amounting to 75 ½ trees. Two more associations totaling 500 trees are scheduled for a fall planting. Other HOA's have contacted Lorri regarding the removal/replacement program.

Andy stated that the intent of the Board is to react to the bug heading here. We would like to have an action plan on file with the City Council. Andy made a motion to close discussion of this issue. Emily suggested putting the vote off to research budget issue and process the input from the citizens in attendance.

Lynn Johnson stated that he would like to get the plan to City Council prior to their June meeting so it can be in place prior to discussions regarding the next biennium budget. Lynn request that a special meeting be called to further discuss this.

### **Forestry Quarterly Report**

Bob stated that the report he handed out shows number of trims from the first of March is higher than usual since he has been “gearing up” staff and has more people and crews trimming.

**Approved Street Tree list:** Lorri reports that 18% of Lincolns public trees are Oak; 14% Maple and 12% Ash, based on the inventory that was recently done. She suggested that Oak and Maple be removed from the approved street tree list for a period of time to allow adjustment of the public tree population by planting other

genus of trees. It was recommended that this issue be moved to our special meeting. Andy tabled items #8 and #9 from our agenda to the next meeting as old business.

**Election of Officers:** Andy stated that the By-Laws state that a person cannot hold the same office more than two consecutive terms. Eric North has volunteered to accept the Chair position and Andy has agreed to move to the Vice Chair position. Andy asked for any other nominations, hearing none, Scott made a motion to close the nominations and accept the slate of officers as the Board. Larry seconded, voted, slate approved.

**Arbor Day 2018:** Lorri announced that our Arbor Day celebration will be held on April 26, 2018 with Kooser Elementary at the new park to be developed next to the school. Lorri suggested that the Board hold an “Ask a Tree Board” to take questions before the carnival starts. The program is scheduled to start at 9:30 and be finished by 11:15 am. Andy request that an e-mail be sent to the Board when the program is solidified.

**Citizen Pruning:** Lorri stated that the program is off and running. Arbor Day Foundation Employees are undergoing training and have participated in three different pruning events. The next session is scheduled for March 26 at Mahoney Park. The Arbor Day Foundation employees that wish to continue in a Crew Leader role will be given a “final” in the form of a crabapple-to-prune in Woods Park in July. We will continue to schedule and promote additional events.

**New Business:** Andy reports that he is on the committee regarding Wilderness Park and will be meeting with park staff to revisit park tree issues.

Adjourn:

Scott made a motion to adjourn, Kendall seconded, and Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball  
Recording Secretary

*Next meeting is Special Meeting April 5, 2018*