

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

April 5, 2018 Special Meeting

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

Chair, Eric North called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. He pointed out the Open Meeting Act posted by the window.

Discussion of Memo by Lynn Johnson: Eric stated that he would like to add a note that chemical treatment is allowed only by direct injection into the trunks of trees. Andy and Scott recommended using the Arborjet system. Eric noted that the plan should state that no chemical should be dumped on the ground, only injections allowed.

Eric would like to add: "Chemical treatment includes only direct trunk injections; no soil drenches or bark sprays or any other external sprays will be allowed."

No one reported any other direct contact from the public. Emily stated that she had e-mailed Jewel, a guest from the March meeting, the information with UNL contacts that Jewel had asked for.

EAB Recovery Plan: Eric questioned what criteria was used to establish which trees would be allowed to be planted as street trees? Mark asked if White Ash are more susceptible to EAB? Eric stated that ALL North American Ash in Lincoln are susceptible to EAB.

Eric would like to set criteria that street tree Ash trees be eligible to be treated. Andy is concerned that the guidelines might be too strict. Lynn asked that they reference the "Adopt an Ash program" criteria for treatment guidelines.

Lynn stated that funding for contractual removals has been identified. He also referenced page 3, pruning cycle and that Parks staff crews will remove 1,000 trees in a year. Lincoln intends to use Forestry staff to see if the tree is suitable for treatment. Property owners may request treatment, but Forestry will inspect the tree. If approved, the homeowner will need to renew the permit to treat within 2 years or the tree will be placed on the removal rotation.

It was asked if funding for low income has been determined. The answer is no.

Training for Park staff will be ongoing.

Wood Utilization: Eric asked how the wood is to be treated to stop the spread. Bob responded that it needs to be ground, burned or buried. If ground, it must fit through a two-inch sleeve.

Andy asked which counties are under quarantine for wood material. Lorri stated that only the Cities of Omaha and Greenwood are quarantined and within 15 miles of those towns. Emily asked for a yearly report of any low-income opportunities. Andy asked that the number of City trees treated and number of permits issued be tracked and reported on the quarterly report.

Kendall asked: "How do we restrict soil drenching? Who will police that?" Andy said that State and federal regulations and product labeling will cover. Further discussion took place regarding the plan. Eric said the Board could adopt the plan as proposed, or with modifications, or vote against the plan. Andy

made a motion that the plan be recommended for adoption with discussed modification and a final version from Law be distributed out to CFAB members and public and forwarded to the City Council for adoption. Scott seconded, voted, unanimously approved.

Callery Pear: This draft is intending to remove Callery Pear from street and park planting to slow the usage of this species and only allow its usage on a case-by-case basis as requested. Emily asked what criteria will be used to determine “special occasion” to allow usage. It was stated that the idea is to limit planting of the species. Most communities have banned them since they are an invasive plant. Eric stated that removal is not a part of this plan, just limiting new planting, and revisit the issue in a year.

Andy made a motion to approve the removal of Callery Pear from the approved Street tree list as amended. Mary seconded, voted, approved.

Street Tree List Revisions: Lynn asked for a committee to give guidance to include or remove genus and species on the list. The committee could include private citizens and Lorri and Mark Canney. We have a new tool in the inventory that was done to get street tree numbers by genus and species. Lynn stated that we need to discuss value of trees. Mark suggested looking at the tradeoff of each tree. Eric stated that if something attacks Maples or Oak trees, it will be worse than EAB since there are more Maples and Oaks than Ash.

Kendall stated that Madison, Wisconsin pays growers to grow trees for three years. Lorri has talked to three growers and found interest in doing that for Lincoln.

Lynn stated that the approved list needs four (4) things:

1. Subdivisions
2. as a guide for Ash replacements
3. as a guide for City staff to plant
4. as a guide to individual home owners to plant

Eric said this is an opportunity to change and diversify rather than have another crisis in 40 years. Eric also stated that he would like to be on this committee, but will be in Botswana for the months of May and June. Lynn stated he would like to have this done by the end of the year. Lorri suggested by September so growers can adjust their stock for spring 2019. Eric, Mary, and Emily volunteered to join Mark and Lorri on the committee. Eric asked that the June meeting be postponed until 6/21/18 to accommodate his schedule.

Adjourn:

Emily made a motion to adjourn, Scott seconded, meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Recording Secretary

Next meeting is June 21, 2018