

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

June 21, 2018

Members Present: Eric North, Chair, Mary Sweeney, Andy Campbell, Scott Hofeling,
Members Absent: Larry Anderson, Emily Casper and Kendall Weyers
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Bob Weyhrich, Lorri Grueber, and Janet Ball
Staff Absent: Mark Canney

Chair, Eric North called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. He pointed out the Open Meeting Act posted by the window.

Scott made a motion to approve both the March meeting and the April Special Meeting minutes as corrected, Andy seconded, voted, minutes approved.

Staff Reports

BeeHive update: Lynn stated that BeeHive is an electronic GPS based system. Crew leaders have a laptop to receive and respond to work request. Each “task” for a tree, such as top, trunk and stump, moves to the next crew as each part is finished.

Bob voiced his concern regarding the time the computers take to download. This is not a productive use of crews. It is causing a loss of productivity. Lorri stated that Wi-Fi was hung in their work place this week so when that is up and running it should help speed things up. Lorri stated that we have only been using the program for 2 weeks and are still in the learning curve. It will take time to learn the program. We can and have requested changes to help speed up the usage. Lorri said that one nice thing about BeeHive is that you can attach photos to the file and that shortcuts will be turned on in the next few weeks. Lynn remarked that Public Works has been using BeeHive on water main repairs.

EAB:

Lynn thanked the Board for reviewing the EAB plan. The next step is to have City Council adopt it after the budget season is over. Lynn would like to advance the “Adopt-an-Ash” program to get people interested in that portion of the plan. Discussion took place regarding Ash treatments and requirements needed to treat on either public or private trees.

Bob reported that the former unit price of removing 41 trees was bid at \$19,991. The new unit price contract cost for those same 41 trees comes in at \$66,649. Forestry crew cost to do those same 41 removals would be \$60,483. The new contract was re-written for the bid that was let in May. Only one complete bid was received and it has been awarded to New Heights Tree Service for a one year period. Forestry’s contractual budget has \$30,000 for the remainder of the current year and another \$63,000 in the 2018/19 budget to be used. Forestry will be using the money to remove 50 large trees a year by unit price contractor. When EAB hits, prices will change and are predicted to be much higher.

When asked about the bid process it was announced that Parks and Rec is taking bids for removals and a notice is sent to anyone that has requested that a bid notice be sent to them. The interested person/company can then go online to see the specifications for the bid.

Lorri reports that 308 trees were planted this spring and of that 75 were EAB replacements. Scott asked why plant and Bob responded that they would never get planted. Andy stated that most street trees planted in new subdivisions are paid for by the developer.

Old Business

Eric stated that at the last meeting in April he had talked about setting a frame work to determine how to select trees. He will send an e-mail to this group of the responses he has received on this. The working group

includes Mary, Kendall, Mark Canney, Lorri and Eric. Lorri would like to see the results for its use with contractual growing. Eric discussed how to limit each genera to 10% of total tree canopy. Discussion took place regarding how to control Developers and the public with their plantings.

Adjourn:

Mary made a motion to adjourn, Andy seconded, meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Recording Secretary

Next meeting is September 11, 2018