

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

February 11, 2020

Members Present: Lachel Bradley-Williams, Chair; Jessica Gieseke, Vice Chair; Eric North, Mary Sweeney, Kendall Weyers and Scott Hofeling
Members Absent: Emily Deeker
Staff Present: Lynn Johnson, Lorri Grueber, Adam Klingenberg, Kaylyn Nerverve, Janet Ball and Chris Myers
Staff Absent:

Call to Order: Chairperson Lachel called the meeting to order at 4:00pm, recognized the Open Meeting Act posted on the wall. Motion to approve minutes from the January meeting made by Mary, and second by Scott; voted and approved unanimously.

Guests present: Erin Chambers, Ryan Kendall, Justin Ketchmark, Dallas Lamb, Ashley Rexroth and Austin Arens, all students of Eric North, were in attendance

Public comments: no public comments.

Lachel introduced David Cary, Director of the City of Lincoln, Planning Department. He attended to present the “Plan Forward 2050 Comprehensive Plan” for the City and Lancaster County.

David talked about what Lincoln looked like 30 years ago, what it looks like now and what is expected in 30 years. When he has presented this topic to others he has asked what they were doing in 1990. Approximately one-third (1/3) of the people asked were not born yet as of 1990! The City of Lincoln had four high schools in 1990 and has built 2 since that time and has proposed to build another two within the next two years.

The City and County, using a “one community concept”, have a combined plan for growth that reaches out twenty years into the future. The plan is updated every five years. This year the plan is projecting ten years out into the future. Experts expect 100,000 more residents in ten years’ time bringing Lincoln’s population to 440,000 residents. Lincoln Public School system grows with the City. New developments need new services, such as sewer, water and roads.

Four concepts are used to Plan Forward 2050:
Resilient, Innovative, Livable and Thriving

Resilient is to build strong foundations of infrastructure and build capital.
Innovative is the City looking forward, being creative and smart in the city strategies
Livable means a safe, healthy and affordable housing
Thriving is a culture of equity, diversity and inclusive. Economic opportunity and cultural growth.

This process was just started in January with a survey for the public to take. They are in the process of gathering ideas and information to use in the plan. Their meetings are open to the public. Lynn Johnson added that the 2040 plan has an urban forestry section and it would be good timing for CFAB to advocate for a tree preservation ordinance.

Old Business: Lachel asked for volunteers to be on the Events Committee: Mary, Jessica, Lachel and Erin all volunteered. Lachel then asked for volunteers to be on the Policy Committee: Jessica, Kendall, Eric and Erin all volunteered. Lynn stated that funding for a part time event coordinator was in the budget.

New Business: Kendall had sent a letter that he proposed sending to the Mayor and City Council to make the Council aware of issues facing the Forestry Department. Mary asked: “what was the “call to action” that he was wanting the council to do. Kendal replied that he just wanted them to put it on their radar. Lynn stated that the pedestrian/bicycle advisory board frequently sent letters to the Mayor. Eric asked if the letter can be posted to the forestry board website. He also suggested a follow up, second letter with the call to action.

Lynn explained the budget process and time line and said that four council members haven’t ever gone thru a budget like the Cities before this year. He (Lynn) feels this letter outlines some of the challenges that Forestry is facing. Jessica made a motion to move forward with the letter and Mary seconded the motion, voted, motion carried. Lynn stated that the letter should come from Lachel on behalf of the board. He thanked Kendall for composing the letter.

Staff Reports: Beyond School Bells, is a program that is state wide in our schools to plant 2,020 trees across the state of Nebraska in 2020. Mayor Gaylor Baird made a commitment to plant 101 trees in park locations on Arbor Day. This 101 tree commitment is a twentieth of the total trees to be planted. Kids participating in the program will be responsible for watering the trees all summer. Lynn stated that the program is grant funded thru the Parks Foundation to plant an inch and a quarter (1 ¼”) size caliper of tree to give them a better chance to grow to maturity. Lynn also stated that Parks and Recreation has \$300,000 budgeted for trees and another \$20,000 in grant money to plant.

The Emerald Ash Borer response and recovery plan was discussed. See attached.

Parks and Recreation Forestry staff will be doing injections on Ash to be saved rather than hiring it out.

Motion to adjourn made by Eric, seconded by Mary, meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Office Specialist

Next meeting March 10, 2020