

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

July 14, 2020

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson, Jessica Gieseke called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, recognized the Open Meeting Act posted on the wall. The name of the church under Arbor Day Event, should be Aldersgate Church, not Allengate. Motion to approve minutes as corrected from the June meeting made by Emily, and second by Kendall; voted and approved unanimously.

Guests present: None

Public comments: no public comments.

Old Business: Committee appointments discussed during the March 10, 2020 meeting are listed on the agenda. Discussion on committee member assignments took place. Jessica request that she not be Co-Chair of the Arbor Day Committee and asked Lachel if she would be willing serve as co-chair. Lachel agreed. Committee are as follows:

Events / Arbor Day Planning Committee

Mary Sweeney, Co-Chair
Lachel Bradley-Williams, Co-Chair
Jessica Gieseke
Erin Chambers

Policy Committee

Kendall Weyers, Chair
Eric North
Jessica Gieseke
Erin Chambers

Establishment of a regular meeting time for Committees was discussed and tabled since three of our current members will be leaving the Board in August. It was decided to wait for the new members to join the board to set the regular committee meeting times.. A planning meeting for the Events / Arbor Day Committee was planned for today but due to the issue getting Zoom started late, the Board meeting ran long so this committee meeting will be rescheduled.

Kendall had sent a survey out asking members of the Policy Committee to give available dates to hold those meetings. So far, nothing works for everyone. He will try a survey again.

Lynn stated that Lorri wants to staff one or both of the committees.

New Business:

Lynn asked if members had anyone in mind that they think would be a good asset to the Board and to please have them go online to apply.

Staff Reports:

Lynn stated that the Mayor's budget has been released. He gave a power point overview of the budget parts that relate to Forestry. A copy of the power point presentation is attached to these minutes.

Scott said the City should quit planting trees and use the money to take care of the trees we have. Kendall stated that there are many other values to trees that can't have a dollar value placed on the tree.

Lynn reports that currently we are trying to replace ash trees on a one-for-one basis, meaning plant one new tree for each one removed. On non-ash replacements we are trying to replace three trees for every five removed. Emily agreed with Scott to quit replacing trees until all maintenance is up to date on current trees.

Discussion took place on the many storms in June and the largest one on July 9, 2020, and the impact on the Forestry Crew. Adam reports that request for service recorded in Beehive went from 30 outstanding requests to check trees to over 800 in one day. All crews are working on storm clean up; even the stump crew is doing limb pick up and chipping. The number of street trees in Lincoln goes up each year but the number of forestry employees has not gone up. Adam also stated a private person cut down two city trees and was taken to court. It was discouraging when he was only fined \$50.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn made by Scott, seconded by Kendall, meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ball
Office Specialist

Next meeting August 11, 2020