



Johnston Tree Board
January 15th, 2008
Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
515-251-3707

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm.

2. Roll Call: Present: Whitlow, Soelberg, Zarley, Soldat, Kallen

3. New Council Representative: Ron Ward introduced Jon Kallen the new Council Representative for the Tree Board.

4. Election of Officers: Motion made by Ginger Soelberg to elect Louise Whitlow as Chairperson. Seconded by Lisa Soldat. Motion passed.

Motion made by Louise Whitlow to elect Virginia Soelberg as Vice Chairperson. Seconded by Lisa Soldat.. Motion passed.

5. Motion made by Kent Zarley to approve Agenda. Seconded by Lisa Soldat. Agenda approved.

6. Public Comments:

7. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Motion made by Virginia Soelberg to approve November 20, 2007 minutes. Approved by Kent Zarley. Minutes approved.

Non-Consent Agenda:

- a. Discuss Residential Tree Program, pick out tree species- The 2008 Residential Tree Program will be May 3rd this year. Ron will send bids to all the nurseries once the Board determines which trees will be handed out. Last year 160 trees were sold out in one day, so it was decided to sell 200 trees this year. A total of 40 trees of each of the five varieties will be selected. The goal is to provide residents with the choice of a small, medium or large tree.

After much discussion and input from Kent Zarley on the different varieties it was decided, if available, the following trees will be purchased in the various sizes:

1. Small-Redbud
2. Medium-Cleveland Select Pear & Black Hills Spruce
3. Large-Redmond American Linden & Skyline Honeylocust

The distribution site for the trees this year will be at the Public Works Building. This will work well since there's a gate to the parking lot. It will make it easier to set up the pick up point and be easier for people checking in and out. Brenda Smith will go to City Hall and help sell trees to help keep this part of the process more organized.

Jon Kallen asked if the May date was set in stone as the distribution date? Ron explained that it is and the Mayor always makes a Proclamation for Arbor Day on this day.

- b. Tree Ordinance Changes- Ron explained the changes that should be made to the Tree Ordinance wording. Most of these pending changes were brought to the Tree Board's attention last September. They involve preparing the City for the Emerald Ash Borer threat and clarifying wording on where trees can be planted in the right-of-way. The Board discussed the wording changes and agreed they're good changes that need to be made to the Ordinance. Kent Zarley made a motion to recommend the proposed wording changes to Council. Motion seconded by Lisa Soldat. Motion passed.

- c. Discuss changing meetings to bi-monthly- Ron felt it would be beneficial to only have the Tree Board meet bi-monthly. Dick Finney is out of town and shared his feelings with Ron on this subject via email. He felt the responsibilities of the Tree Board should be reviewed before we decide on this. Ron said the basic responsibilities are to set and review the guidelines that have been put in place by Council.

After the Board discussed this matter it was decided meeting bi-monthly would be fine and the meetings will be changed to 6:00pm.

Lisa made a motion that Tree Board Meetings be held bi-monthly at 6:00pm. Motion seconded by Kent Zarley. Motion passed.

The next Tree Board Meeting will be March 18th, 2008. A meeting will need to be held in April so final plans can be made for selling and distributing trees on May 3rd, 2008.

8. Staff Reports:

A. Parks Superintendent:

1. Annual Report-Ron explained the Annual Report is to see what the Parks Department and Parks Crew has accomplished during the past year. The report consists of all completed projects in 2007.
2. MidAmerican Trees Please! Grant-We normally receive \$1,000 from this and will use it toward the purchase of trees for several different projects.
3. Parks Crew-The Parks Crew finished an inventory on Ash Trees that are located on City Property. This was done by address and will be helpful for the Emerald Ash Borer threat. The count of Ash Trees is 595 and this doesn't include any trees in the Beaver Creek area. Ron said there is a tree software program that will be very helpful when the entire City needs to be inventoried.
4. EAB Presentation to Council February 19, 2008-Robin Pruisner will make a presentation on Emerald Ash Borer to this Council Meeting.

Virginia asked if the Parks Crew would be spraying the garlic mustard again this spring to help contain it along the bike trail. Ron said they would do this again since it seemed to help last year.

9. Volunteer Hours:
Virginia-1
Louise-1
Lisa-1

10. Next Tree Board Meeting
March 18th, 2008

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.