



Johnston Tree Board
March 18th, 2008
Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
515-251-3707

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

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

3. Motion made by Dick Finney to approve Agenda. Seconded by Virginia Soelberg. Motion passed.

4. Public Comments:

5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Motion made by Dick Finney to approve January 15th, 2008 minutes with an amendment made to letter C under the Non-Consent Agenda. Dick's comments on changing the meetings to bi-monthly will be stricken from the minutes. Seconded by Kent Zarley. Motion passed.

6. Non-Consent Agenda:

A. Review Neighborhood Grant Applications- Rhonda Martin presented her proposal to plant evergreen trees and shade trees along Merle Hay Road and the bike trails. She indicated she knows there are issues with storm sewers, sanitary sewers and electrical poles that are in the area along Merle Hay Road where she'd like to plant these. Her direction from the Grant Review Committee is to work with Public Works and only plant where they will permit her to and to get approval from the Park Board for the trees along the trails. After making her presentation to the Park Board, they agreed to an alternate plan for planting trees along the bike trail if she follows the criteria for planting them and if she works with the Parks Staff on the locations. They also agreed she will need to see the Tree Board for their input on the types of trees to plant. Ron Ward told the Board that Dave Cubit, Public Works Director, has already said no trees will be planted along Merle Hay Road. First, the trees would be in the Right of Way. Second, there are major utility concerns in this area to be taken into consideration, which she's already aware of. After much discussion, the Tree Board agreed they should look for opportunities to plant trees around the City since we have the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer and for beautification.

Kent Zarley suggested Rhonda go ahead and have locates done along the Merle Hay Road area to see if there is any room to plant a few of the trees. He also suggested that Rhonda call him after they mark the locations, so he can check out the space. Kent then made a motion to recommend to the Grant Review Committee that, if after locates are done and there are planting sites that meet the Tree Ordinance Guidelines, trees could be planted in the Right Of Way along Merle Hay Road. Motion seconded by Dick Finney. Motion passed.

Ron had concerns with two of the trees on Rhonda's list. The Honey Locust Tree and Coffee Tree. He advised that she make sure they were seedless trees. The Tree Board also recommended changing the Norway Spruce to a Black Hills Spruce. Rhonda had no problems with changing this variety of these trees.

The second Grant Application is from the Girls Softball Association to plant between 12 to 16 shade trees along the outside perimeter of the softball fields at Lew Clarkson Park. Virginia Soelberg said the only tree she questioned was the Autumn Blaze Maple, since we have so many of these trees planted already. Kent made a motion to recommend to the Grant Review Committee approval of the Grant and tree species chosen, provided they choose a different variety of Maple Tree. Motion seconded by Lisa Soldat. Motion passed.

- B. Review Residential Tree Planting Program for 2008-Ron handed out a list of notes to the Board about the tree distribution. All the trees have been ordered from Vic Scott Landscaping. The only tree that wasn't available was the Redmond American Linden. Ron ordered Sugar Maples to replace this one. The trees will go on sale to the public on April 14th starting at 8:00am. An instruction sheet on how to plant the trees will be available the day the trees are sold. It was also suggested we place ROW Permit Applications on the desk for customers, so we'll also have those on hand.

Trees will be picked up on Saturday, May 3rd. The pick-up site will be Public Works this year. We'll have a table set up for check-in that morning. Volunteers will assist the customer in picking out their tree and getting it to their vehicle. The customer must have their receipt to pick up their tree. Any unclaimed trees that are not picked up by 11:00am will be a donation to the Tree Board. The Lions Club will also have volunteers to help with the distribution that morning. Staff should arrive at 8:00am to help get set up and ready for the distribution.

7. Staff Reports:

A. Parks Superintendent:

1. Tree City USA- The Awards Ceremony and luncheon is Thursday, April 3rd at the Holiday Airport Inn. Three people can attend the luncheon. Ron and Louise Whitlow will attend again this year. If anyone else would like to join them, please let Ron know.
2. Trees Ordered-Other trees that have been ordered are new trees and bushes for Pointe Vista Park. Eight Regal Prince Oak trees have been

ordered as replacement trees for the Merle Hay Median. These have all been ordered from Bob Lenc Landscaping.

3. EAB Presentation by Robin Pruisner to Council on February 19th, 2008-Ron said Robin did a great job on her presentation. He gave the Board a copy of her Power Point presentation and notes. Virginia suggested the Tree Board think about forming a committee to start working on Emerald Ash Borer problems. Ron agreed this would be a good project for the Board to get started on.

8. Volunteer Hours:
Virginia-21
Louise-1
Lisa-1
Dick-1
Kent-1

9. Next Tree Board Meeting
April 15th, 2008

10. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.