

Minutes from February 19th meeting of the Urban Forest Board - 2019

Meeting called to order at 1:08 PM by Chairman Bruce. Present were BOD members Cammack, Chebul, Olsen, O'Leary, Douglass, & Schlaebitz, constituting a quorum . Staff present were Kathleen Humpa, arborist, and JP Gallagher, director Parks and Rec.

The January 15th minutes were read and a motion to approve was made and carried. No Change in the financial report. No income, expenses, or bills received.

Kathleen gave the Arborist report which included confirmation of receipt of successful Arbor Day application and award of \$750, which will be used to plant trees in 'C' Street park in cooperation with a class from Emerson Grade School. Kathleen has been in contact with Todd Hunkler from Habitat Housing and they looked at some potential spots for tree planting. All thought some educational efforts would be appropriate with the home owners with regard to proper tree maintenance. Kathleen handed out a job description for the Urban Forest Interns who will be hired and assist in the tree inventory this summer. Most of these expenses will be paid for through the Program Development grant which B-SB recently received.

A lengthy discussion took place with regard to our failed efforts at getting street trees to survive adjacent to the Front Street Safeway. The consensus was that Safeway has been too aggressive in there snow melting chemicals over the past few years and have essentially killed off all the trees but one, which includes multiple efforts at replanting. It was decided that the UFB would write a letter to the Safeway Corporate office to see if they are interested and open to a different approach. Otherwise B-SB will likely just remove the tree grates and fill in the sidewalk cuts with concrete.

This lead to a general discussion about how B-SB does or does not embrace previously codified policy with regard to tree planting and care when it comes to the business community. Commissioner Olson encouraged everyone to participate in the community growth plan comment period which ends today.

The Board asked for an update on the Montana St. watering issues but there was no new definitive developments to report.

Next was a discussion about Dewy Blvd and the potential for more tree planting adjacent to or within the planned construction zone this year. Bruce will contact Mark Neary of Public Works for further clarification about B-SB's intention on this.

JP advised the board that Pete Schonsberg will be the new point man for parks and some tree watering issues.

More discussion took place with regard to this year's tree order date and the number of trees needed for various projects. Kathleen is shooting for a mid-March order date. Charlie will send Kathleen additional documents for some of the Rowe Rd proposed plantings. Bruce and Phil will do a count soon of how many are needed to finish up the South end of Rowe.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM Next meeting will be March 19th, 2019