



Urban Forestry Committee Meeting
November 9th, 2021
West Fargo City Hall - West Fargo Room

Members Present: Dave Schacher, Dave Janssen, Mike Opat, Mary Beth Odegaard

Others Present: Chad Zander

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM

Dave Janssen made a motion to approve the minutes from August 10th, 2021. Dave Schacher seconded the motion, motion carried.

The first item of old business was an update on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), Chad Zander gave the update. Chad noted that he had no new news to share, which is a good thing. No new counties in Minnesota and nothing yet in North Dakota.

The second item of old business was the Xcel Energy Gas Main Project, Chad Zander gave the update. Chad had noted that the project was completed this fall. He also noted that the trees were rated in Cartegraph and could be rerated after the two years, for any obvious decline and any that die will be replaced.

The third item of old business was the Xcel Energy electrical easement update, Chad Zander gave the update. Chad noted that the trees located on City property were approved to remain by Xcel Energy. Chad also noted that some of the other trees were located on private property. The city will work with those property owners to and any moving forward to inform them of Xcel Energy's easement regulations.

The next item on the agenda was Arbor Day 2021. Chad gave the update. The 2021 Arbor Day was held on September 24th at City Hall. The event went good and Bob Potter's tree was planted at the Francis St. orchard.

The next item on the agenda was grant updates, Chad Zander gave the updates. The tree planting grant along 14th Ave. E. has been completed, the grant was finished in the last couple weeks. Chad will work with the forest service for the inspection and then submit for the grant reimbursement. The program development grant is currently ongoing, the trees have been removed and new trees installed. City staff is currently grinding the stumps, if the weather stays nice it should be finished this year, it was noted that the grant doesn't need to be completed this year and could be finished in the spring, if need be.

The first item of new business was the 13th Ave. Planting Project. Chad noted that the project was completed this fall by GreenEarth Landscaping. He also noted it will have a two year warranty.

The second item of new business was the Main Ave. planting project. Chad gave the update, he noted that the project was added to the City's CIP list. The specifications, planting plan and RFP will be developed over the winter and planted in the spring. The project will need to go before the City Commission before getting completed.

The third item of new business was the Arbor Day 2022 discussion. Chad noted that the Arbor Day will be back at the regular time of year and close to ND's Arbor Day, in May. The Arbor Day recipients will be discussed at the February 2022 meeting.

The last item on the agenda was miscellaneous items. The first item Chad Zander discussed was the City Forester job description, Chad noted that the previous Program Coordinator position has been reworked and now is a City Forester that went into effect on October 4th, 2021. The second miscellaneous item discussed was the orchards, Chad noted that two more community orchards were installed this fall. One located at 501 19th Ave. W. with around a dozen trees and another at 1200 14th Ave. E. with around 27 trees. The city's approved boulevard tree list was also discussed, this item will be added to the next meeting's agenda. Several other city regulations/nuisances were also discussed, Chad will get some clarification from administration and update the committee at the next meeting. Mike Opat also mentioned the idea of the committee going on a tour, Chad will take a look at options.

The next meeting will be February 8th, 2022.

Mike Opat made a motion to adjourn, Dave Janssen seconded. Meeting was adjourned.