



Urban Forestry Committee Meeting
November 9th, 2022
West Fargo City Hall – Riverside Room

Members Present: Dave Schacher, Mike Opat, Mary Beth Odegaard, Barry Johnson, Roben Anderson

Others Present: Chad Zander

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM

The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes. Barry Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from August 9th, 2022. 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. He noted that only one new county in Minnesota has found EAB, Sherburne County.

The first grant update was the 2022 Tree Planting Grant. Chad noted that the grant was completed this fall and had, just recently, been inspected by the Forest Service and is ready for reimbursement. The grant included 105 trees from Sheyenne St. to 1st St. from Main Ave. W. to 7th Ave. W.

The second grant update was the Program Development Grant. Chad noted that this grant was completed this fall and won't get inspected and reimbursed until next year, due to the in-kind time required. This grant included the removal of 9 tree under power lines and replacement with smaller species.

The next grant update was on the Inflation Reduction Act Grants. Chad gave the update and had a handout explaining the new grants. Chad noted that ND Forest Service will receive an increase in grant money and encouraged the City of West Fargo to continue applying. Chad noted that this was the first time a fall grant cycle was opened, the city did apply for another tree planting grant in that cycle. Chad will bring the grant information to the next meeting.

The first item of new business on the agenda was 2023 Arbor Day. Chad encouraged committee members to have a few names ready for the next meeting.

The second item of new business was the 2023 Community Orchard. Chad handed out a planting plan for the orchard, located in Charleswood. He noted this was a cooperative orchard project with the parks department.

The next item on the agenda was the 2023 Committee Nominations, after a short discussion the item was tabled until the next meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the 2023 CIP Planting Project. Chad noted that the project is listed on the CIP and will be following the same time schedule as last years CIP project. Chad noted that an approval letter from the committee will help. Mike Opat made a motion to recommend an approval letter of the project, to go to city commissioners, Barry Johnson seconded the motion, motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the tree list and maples. Chad noted the city is above the threshold for maples in the boulevard and recommended removing maples from the tree list. Several maps were handed out showing the maples. After some discussion Mary Beth Odegaard made a motion to remove maples from the planting list, Dave Schacher seconded the motion, motion carried. Chad will work with the communications department to get the information out and update the list. Chad noted that if residents contact him for the approval of a boulevard maple, that those would be looked at case by case. Several other items that came up during the discussion included education for residents regarding maples and allowing them in the older parts of town, that don't have many maples.

The next item on the agenda was the tree fee. Chad noted that the current tree fee is \$150, but a lot of the trees on the city's list cost more than that, several others cost less. Chad also noted that no time frame is put on planting the trees and that the program is voluntary. After a lengthy discussion, Chad will bring some more information to the next meeting about the trees fees, including how many we have and a breakdown of them.

The last item of new business was the 2023 Tree Conference in Aberdeen. Chad noted that the City will cover costs for any member interested in attending. Those interested can contact Chad to set it up.

The next meeting will be February 15th, 2022. It was noted this was a change, since the original February date was Valentine's Day.

Mike Opat made a motion to adjourn, Roben Anderson seconded. Meeting was adjourned.