

FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – April 20, 2021

In attendance:

Doug Prchal	Erik Dietrich	Greg Zenker	Stan Churchill
Dave Mayer	Mark Zimmerman	Brett Gurholt	Amy Sakariassen
Christy Ames-Davis	Doug Wiles		

Absent:

Mitch Becker	Carolyn Godfread
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The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the October 20, 2020 regular meeting of the FAB:

Amy Sakariassen moved to approve the minutes. Mark Zimmerman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Arbor Day Update:

The annual Arbor Day event is scheduled for Friday, May 7th at Heritage Park in NW Bismarck. Chad Moldenhauer and Heritage Development will be recognized for the greening of the Heritage Park and Heritage Ridge Additions in NW Bismarck. Appleseed and Beautification awards will be distributed and 2020 Partners In Planting program sponsors will be recognized. Mrs. Heiple's 4th grade class from Liberty Elementary School will also be in attendance. Apples, bags and baby trees will be handed out at the end of the program. Ponderosa Pine and Colorado Blue Spruce are the trees that will be handed out. Stan Churchill asked where the baby trees are purchased from. We have gotten them from Towner Nursery the past several years. Stan suggested trying some deciduous tree seedlings such as hackberry. Christy will check into some different sources next year. Things are coming together nicely and it looks like it will be another great event.

In addition to the event on May 7th, Arbor week/month activities will include:

- Tree planting lessons with local homeschool groups at Sertoma Park on May 4th
- Storytime visit at the library on May 6th
- Visit to 2nd and 4th Grade classrooms at Centennial Elementary on May 6th
- Tree planting at Liberty Elementary with Mrs. Heiple's class the week of May 10th

2021 Pruning Contract Update:

We received 5 bids for 2021 contract pruning. There were some technicalities with the bidding process. Lefke Tree Service from Ohio had the low bid, but did not have a ND contractor license that was required as part of the bid, so the bid could not be accepted. Beaver Creek Tree Service had the next lowest bid and was awarded the contract with the City having option to continue the contract for up to

2 more years. Beaver Creek has held this contract previously, so we are familiar with their work. Doug W showed a map of the area they are working in right now. They have turned in their first completed list of trees, all elm in the project area were pruned prior to cut off date for pruning elm.

European Elm Scale Treatment Program:

When we first started receiving complaints about sticky stuff dropping from elm trees in the City, our first thought it was aphids. However, the problem ended up being European Elm Scale (EES). The sticky stuff dropping from the trees turned out to be honeydew from this pest. We are the first city in ND to deal with EES and drought conditions are aggravating the problem. If action is not taken now we will start losing a lot of elm to EES.

For 2021 we have \$20,000 in our budget to start injecting trees to help control EES. Two different chemicals will be used; Imidacloprid and acetamiprid. We will also be trying green Lacewing insects as a form of biological control. Injections will be done by our staff and will begin sometime in May. The target area for 2021 will be Washington St south of Boulevard Ave and then spreading out into the Cathedral District from there for as far as the chemical we have will go. Another round of injections will take place next year.

Amy suggested giving EES info at the upcoming Preservation Month event at the end of May. She will also look into grants from the preservation/historical end to get more money to treat more trees. Letters will be sent to property owners notifying them their tree will be treated. Treatment will be done every other year. There may be some herd immunity achieved through branches of treated trees touching or through roots. One thing to remember, especially in times of drought, is that mature trees need water too. Watering should be done through dripline of tree, one inch per week. Use a receptacle to measure how much water is being put down. Root feeding can be done as well.

2021 Grant Discussion:

We have been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the ND Forest Service for EAB preparedness and diversification to be used by the end of 2022. Through this grant, we will offer replacement trees to those addresses where Elm or Ash trees were removed due to DED or poor condition as an effort to diversify species. This year, planting will be in fall. We will plant around 130 bareroot trees. Locations are widespread throughout Bismarck. If we have trees left over, they will be planted on main arterials with large boulevards that don't have trees, such as N 26th St, N Washington St and N 4th St. If we can't get a replacement tree in at the same property where it was removed, we plan to find an open space as to the property as possible to return canopy cover to the neighborhood.

City of Bismarck EAB Plan Update:

Our current EAB plan was adopted in 2010 and is in need of an update. We have reduced ash population by 10% since then. Doug W would like to see FAB members have a role in the edit. The estimated time frame for the edit is 6 months or more.

Doug W asked Stan to get updated numbers for removals and replacements discussed on page 2 of the document.

On page 3 under Inventory, park trees are mentioned. This is something Doug W will need to discuss with Randy Bina and Dave Mayer. We need a more solid plan for parks, not just let's wait and see what happens. Dave will talk to Randy about setting up a meeting. We also need a more complete parks tree inventory.

Doug also assigned several FAB members to contact other communities to see how they manage EAB. Amy will contact Sioux Falls, Erik will contact Winnipeg, and Brett will contact Rochester. Doug will send contact info for these cities to each of these individuals. We have obtained EAB plans from the City of Fargo and Fargo Parks as well.

Other agenda items:

Christy still needs oaths of office signed by Mark, Doug P, Brett, and Mitch. Carolyn's term expired March 31st so will need to contact her to see if she wants to continue serving on the FAB. No other items were brought up for discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:15.