

# FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – September 17, 2019

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**In attendance:**

Greg Zenker	Doug Prchal	Doug Wiles	Carolyn Godfread
Stan Churchill	Mark Zimmerman	Dave Mayer	

**Absent:**

Mitch Becker	Erik Dietrich	Amy Sakariassen	Christy Ames-Davis
Brett Gurholt			

The meeting was called to order by Doug Prchal at 12:15 p.m.

**Approval of the minutes from the March 19, 2019 regular meeting of the FAB:**

Doug P called for approval of the minutes. Mark Zimmerman motioned to approve, Stan Churchill seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Partners in Planting update:**

Doug W reported Christy has issued 201 planting permits so far this year. He stated 690 trees have been permitted & 273 of these have been commercial properties which were ordinance required permits. There have been 192 trees rebated so far. The total amount rebated year to date is \$14,385.00 which averages out to be about \$74.00 per tree. The amount of donations received this year for Partners in Planting is over \$6,000.00. Mark Z inquired as to what areas the planting permits were issued for. Doug W stated the main area(s) where the significant number of trees are being permitted and planted is in the northwest newer areas and new commercial developments.

**Forestry Update:**

Doug W reported forestry has been extremely busy this summer with removals and with trees with DED and have not done any maintenance pruning except for in the parks. He stated they purposefully do not prune during summer months of June and July when the trees are actively growing. Doug also reported most of the seasonal staff has been laid off except for a couple of employees to work on pruning.

**Dutch Elm Disease:**

Doug reported the number of Dutch elm disease trees were extremely high this year. There were 79 total positive DED trees found this year. There were 49 DED trees on the boulevard and 24 private property DED trees. He stated every elm tree is tested in the forestry lab before it is removed or requiring removal. It takes 4 to 7 days to test for positive cultures. Doug reported there were 6 DED trees found in the parks. Mark inquired where the testing is done for DED and Doug stated the testing is done here at Public Works in the Forestry lab. Doug stated that we also look for elm trees that are over 50% dead to reduce the habitat for over wintering elm bark beetles that spread the disease. There were 40 trees that were removed that were over 50% dead. Dave Mayer questioned what repercussions there are if private DED trees are not removed. Doug stated the city would hire a contractor to remove the tree and the fees would be assessed to the property owner's taxes.

**Weeds Update:**

Doug W reported there were 798 work orders and 1300 complaints issued this year so far for weeds and grass. There were about the same number of complaints issued last year as well. Mark questioned how forestry manages weeds. Doug W stated that the ordinance states grass can't be over 8 inches or have noxious weeds on their property. The city contractor does not spray for weeds on private property, only removal through mowing or weed eating.

**FAB Member Terms Expiring:**

Doug reported Amy & Mitch's terms are expiring 2019. Steve has resigned his position as chair as he has moved out of State. There was a motion made by Carolyn for Doug P to fill in as temporary chair until December 2019 when nominations are made to fill the chair positions. Carolyn motioned and Stan seconded it. Doug P asked members to bring names for nominating to the next FAB meeting. Doug W stated he has reached out to Home Builders for any interest in serving on the committee but there has been no interest. Greg mentioned it would be nice to have someone to serve from Parks and Rec. Dave stated he will check with Jolene from the State Park Association to see if she would be interested. Doug P also mentioned he will check with Melissa to see if someone can serve on the committee in Eric's absence. Doug W stated he will reach out to Mitch and Amy to see if they have interest in keeping the position of chair and vice chair.

**Committee Reports:**

Doug stated C & N Tree Service has dissolved and started a new company C & D Tree Service. They took the arborist exam again and they passed and paid their licensing fee. Doug stated when their outstanding landfill bill issue is resolved a license can be issued.

Stan asked if there could be a quicker link access on the City website to access the city arborists. Doug W stated he will check into it with the attorney's office.

**Other Items:**

It was discussed to reschedule the December meeting to earlier in the month. Doug stated he would reach out to the advisory board members to confirm a date.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.