

FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – October 20, 2020

In attendance:

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

Absent:

None

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

Approval of the minutes from the September 17, 2019 regular meeting of the FAB:

Doug P called for approval of the minutes. Carolyn Godfread motioned to approve, Amy Sakariassen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Forestry Update:

- A. Pruning to Date – Doug W reported that the Forestry Crews pruning total to date is 1449. Forestry currently has only one certified arborist on staff through the end of this year. Pruning is not done during the summer months as to not disturb the active growth of the trees and because of Dutch Elm Disease. Doug W stated the contractor has pruned 500 trees annually with 166 trees remaining for the year. Some trees are pruned for the Street Improvement Projects which is done by A-1 Tree Service. The Forestry’s goal is to have a total of 3000 trees pruned per year to maintain the 8 year tree pruning rotation. The total trees pruned to date is 2314. Mitch asked how many arborists would the Forestry Department like to have on staff and Doug W stated at least 4 minimum.

- B. Removals to date - Forestry has removed 191 trees this year. The average number of trees removed per year is approximately 200 trees.

Final Dutch Elm Disease Report:

Doug W reported that there were less positive Dutch Elm disease (DED) trees this year compared to last year but more removals of 50% dead elm trees. Forestry inspects firewood throughout the city to manage DED. Forestry does not remove nor do we require anyone to remove an elm tree unless it has tested positive for DED. This year there were 32 boulevard trees that tested positive for DED, 9 parks trees, and 23 private trees. Dutch Elm Disease is spread through two modes. It can be spread by the beetle as it carries the fungus on its back or the roots can graft from tree to tree.

Grants Summary:

Doug W reported that the city executed a grant from the Forest Service to plant over 100 trees of various species on University Dr from Denver through the planting beds North to 12th St. Bismarck Parks and Rec received a tree planting grant for Sibley Park where they planted 235 trees. There was also a tree planting grant that Forestry was not a part of at McDowell Dam where there were 175 trees planted.

2021 Pruning Contract:

Doug W reported this year is the end of the 3rd year extension of the Forestry pruning contract. Forestry's current pruning contract is \$90,000. The past 3 years Beaver Creek Tree Service has had the Forestry pruning contract. Forestry was having projects bid by size class but are now bidding projects by average cost per tree, as a result the city is getting much more pruning work done by contractors. The average cost per tree for previous contracts was \$135 per tree and the average number of trees pruned was 667 trees per year over the past 3 years.

Doug W stated he is looking at bidding four separate zoned project areas and would like to bid separate contractors for each area. Doug stated he is hoping this would increase competition of the bids and would get the work done quicker. The four areas are based on the number of complaints from citizens of low hanging trees, etc. These areas would be W of Tyler Parkway & Domino Dr, the German Streets, Overlook W boundary and Washington E boundary and S of Main to Expressway. Doug W stated the forestry crew prunes the small trees in each unit & the contractors will bid on only trees 10" in diameter. This will be mostly ash trees and linden trees.

Doug W stated he and Christy decided the two contract areas this year will be Overlook and Michigan areas. He stated there will be 2 separate bids on these areas and hoping to have 2 separate contractors. Stan asked if most of the trees in these areas are ash trees and Doug stated they were and that the ash trees can be pruned throughout the year without restrictions.

Doug W stated he and Christy will be preparing an RFP over the next week. Anticipate RFP being published the beginning of November with bid opening occurring the beginning of December.

Partners in Planting/Tree planting update:

Doug W reported forestry had a great year for tree planting. He stated on 43rd Ave there were 300 trees planted.

Doug W stated to date the number of trees planted this year is 847. We have removed about 200 trees and have had an increase of over 600 trees.

Christy reported the amount of funds raised for Partners in Planting this year is \$9,750 which is the most raised in years. She stated there is a strong partnership for PIP with Marathon Petroleum and that BNSF is a new sponsor this year for PIP. Christy also reported that she rebated 95 recipients for 187 trees for PIP. She has given over \$16,000 in rebates so far this year. Christy reported she issued 273 permits so far this year compared to approximately 220 permits last year.

Mitch inquired if Christy had a breakdown of Commercial & residential trees permitted. Christy stated there were 20-30 permits issued where trees were required. She stated Williquors was the biggest project where there were 30 trees planted.

Arbor Day 2020 Recap:

Arbor Day was held on September 23, 2020 at the Optimist Park. The theme was "Trees Are Terrific". Doug W thanked Christy for organizing Arbor Day and all her hard work and all the FAB members that helped make Arbor Day a success. Doug W thanked Brett G for doing a great job emceeding & Doug P and Mark Z for handing out the awards.

Insect & Disease update:

Doug W reported we are now seeing European elm scale on most of our elm trees. Branches are dying back which means more dead elmwood in trees which creates habitat for beetles that carry DED. He stated this causes trees to decline & provides habitat for DED. Bismarck has approximately 3300 Elm trees on the boulevards and make up about 13% of the street trees. Doug W stated he receives numerous calls during the summer regarding this issue. Doug W stated a couple suggestions for homeowners is to buy lady beetles and green lacewings and release them on the trees once they start seeing the sapping. Doug W also stated you can treat the elm trees in the fall & spring with different insecticides. Doug W stated that managing this insect infestation is very difficult but there are several options for homeowners.

FAB Member terms expiring in 2019, 2020:

- A. Amy S., Mitch B. terms, Stan & Doug P. (March 2020) – Doug P and Stan terms expired in March of 2020 and they stated they will continue serving on FAB. Mitch B. & Amy S. terms expired March of 2019 and they stated they will also continue serving on the FAB. Doug W stated there is still one vacancy for the FAB.
- B. Chair & Vice Chair – Doug P was nominated for Chair, Carolyn moved and Greg seconded the motion. Carolyn nominated Amy S for Vice Chair Stan motioned and Greg seconded the motion.

Committee reports:

None

Other agenda items:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 pm