

URBAN FORESTRY TREE BOARD MINUTES

October 19, 2023 Regular Meeting



The meeting was called to order by Chair Ludwig at 4:30 p.m. on October 19, 2023, in Government Center Room 204 & virtually via Microsoft Teams.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Ruth Ludwig, Richard Kaufman, Jared Ludwig, Vern Northrup, Nick Nelson*, Robert-Jan Quené*

Members Excused: Megan Gil-de-Lamadrid

City Staff Present: Kara Czapinski, Ryan Wintlend

Others Present: John Ramos

Robert-Jan Quené joined the meeting virtually at 4:30 p.m.

Nick Nelson joined the meeting virtually at 4:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1. Urban Forestry Tree Board (Special Meeting held September 26, 2023)

MOTION by Quené, second by Kaufman, and carried to approve the minutes from September 26, 2023.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1. Open meeting Law Review with City Attorney Frog Prell.

Attorney Frog Prell was unable to attend the meeting, but he intends to be present at the meeting scheduled for January 18, 2024.

3.2. Confirm 2024 Urban Forestry Tree Board meeting dates.

It was discussed to continue meeting quarterly on the 3rd Thursday of each month, at 4:30 PM. Discussion will be made in the January meeting, if another meeting is needed for planning and preparation for Arbor Day. The dates for 2024 are tentatively set as follows:

- January 18, 2024
- April 18, 2024
- July 18, 2024
- October 17, 2024

MOTION by Kaufman, second by Ludwig, and carried to approve the Urban Forestry Tree Board meeting dates for 2024.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1. Holiday Tree Update.

Czapinski confirmed that Superior High School's Spartan Manufacturing is designing the ornaments for the new holiday tree. The carving of the old holiday tree will be installed at Center City Park the week of October 30, 2023, and the Holiday Tree Lighting Event is scheduled for November 24, 2023, from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Councilor Ludwig asked if members could observe the production phase of the ornaments, and Superintendent Wintlend stated that he would follow-up with Spartan Manufacturing.

4.2. Follow up on Nimmaawanji'idimin Giiwitaashkodeng.

Councilor Ludwig and Superintendent Wintlend attended the "Restoring with Fire Event" at the Cloquet Forestry Center on October 3, 2023. The tour provided valuable education for the attendees, showcasing different areas that had been burned at various times and how they were restored using fire. The committee discussed the potential of using this information to guide future fire management in the Superior Municipal Forest.

4.3. Recommendations for Municipal Forest Master Plan.

Ludwig stated that the Superior Municipal Forest Plan was approved by the City Council at the October 17, 2023, meeting. The committee discussed the idea of prioritizing the "Forestry Recommendations" on Page 39 and agreed that it would be beneficial. After reviewing some of the recommendations, they decided to conduct further evaluation. Kaufman proposed sending out a poll via email, focusing on a few recommendations at a time, to determine their priority levels (high/medium/low). The committee will discuss the poll results and engage in a more detailed conversation during the January meeting.

MOTION by Kaufman second by Vern, and carried to create a poll for the recommendations of the Municipal Forest Plan and prioritize accordingly for the January 18, 2024, meeting.

5. RECURRING BUSINESS

5.1. Director's Update – N/A

5.2. Superintendent's Update

5.2.1. A successful mission was carried out this year, resulting in the planting of over 170 trees. To ensure better success rates, natural soils from the planting site were incorporated. The remaining trees will be used for Woodstock Bay and Barkers Island.

5.2.2. A generous donation of 12 trees has been received for Carl Gullo Park. Currently, half of the trees have been planted, while the remaining trees will be utilized in a natural playscape within the playground once it is closer to completion.

- 5.2.3. This year, a total of 66 trees have been removed, over 400 trees have been pruned, and approximately 45 stumps have been removed from the waitlist of over 150.
- 5.2.4. Wintlend and others from the Parks crew attended the Minnesota Society Arboriculture Training last week and had the opportunity to speak on one of the panels.
- 5.2.5. The crew initiated the planting of trees and shrubs at Woodstock Bay today, with the remaining trees scheduled for planting in the spring.
- 5.2.6. Around 200 trees were planted on the northside and southside of North 28th Street by the hired contractor, resulting in a great outcome. Methods such as gypsum salt can be explored, to ensure the survival of trees during the winter season.

5.3. Future Agenda Items

- 5.3.1. Fees allowed for tree removals on easements.
- 5.3.2. Poll results from the recommendations for the Municipal Forest Master Plan
- 5.3.3. Holiday Tree Event Update

Arbor Day planning

- 5.4. **Confirm the next meeting date as January 18, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the Government Center.**

6. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Ludwig announced the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Czapinski

2024 - Urban Forestry Tree Board Meetings

January						
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28	29	30	31			

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31						

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30						

July						
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August						
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November						
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December						
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