

# Tree Board Minutes

## July 30, 2007

**Members Present: Newt Potter, Dale Redetzke, Laura Poser, Corey Stearns, Steve Cook**

**Also attending: John Olson, Public Works Manager, Mark Schnobrich, City Forester**

**After introductions of all the new members the meeting was begun.**

**The members and their terms are as follows.**

Laura Poser	April, 2008	First Unexpired Term
Newton Potter	April, 2010	Second Full Term
Dale Redetzke	April, 2010	Second Full Term
Corey Stearns	April, 2009	First Full Term
Steve Cook	Council	

### **Items of Discussion:**

The new board members were all introduced and meeting was begun.

Mark presented a brief power point presentation depicting the current 2007 Year Forestry projects.

- Hutchinson Utilities Commission Energy Tree Planting program. Over 90 trees have been planted thus far with 51 homes receiving trees
- Mark told the board the incidence of Dutch elm disease was high this year with over twice as many trees being removed in 2007 as in 2006,
- **Developers Tree Planting program.** Ravenwood West , South Fork, and South Winds developments all received trees as part of the city boulevard tree planting agreement. 71 Trees were planted thus far in new developments in 2007. These plantings are part if the city's obligation to plant boulevard trees with dollars escrowed by developers.
- John Olson discussed the integration of public works, the gray infrastructure and trees the green infrastructure as part of his duties now and how the two are intertwined as more and more emphasis is placed on storm water management and other environmental issues. John also discussed the city budget short falls and the need to address alternative revenue sources. Of all

of the services a city could charge for, tree removal was one of those allowable charges that is not currently be charged to property owners. John requested the Board think about the possibility of charging for some of those forestry services that are now not being charged.

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- Mark discussed the pending threat of Emerald Ash Borer and where in the United States the insect is currently present. The City of Detroit, Michigan has already lost over a million ash trees and the insect appears to be moving west via contaminated firewood. Mark stated that the City of Hutchinson was working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on a joint project of setting up 6 trap trees in the city parks that the MDA will come back this fall to monitor for the presence of the Emerald Ash borer.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be August 27, 2007 at 5:pm in the City Center.

# **Tree Board Minutes**

## **August 27, 2007**

**Members Present: Newt Potter, Dale Redetzke, Corey Stearns,  
Steve Cook**

**Members Absent: Laura Poser**

**Also attending: John Olson, Public Works Manager, Mark Schnobrich, City Forester**

### **Items of Discussion:**

Mark presented a brief update on the tree planting and tree removal progress for the month of August.

- Hutchinson Utilities Commission Energy Tree Planting program is now complete with a total of 187 Energy trees being planted thus far with 52 homes receiving trees
- Development plantings [ those trees that are planted in developments via escrowed dollars from developers ] reached 71 trees in 2007. Rolling Meadows East, First Addition to Rolling Meadows East, South Fork, South Winds and Ravenwood West all received trees in 2007
- City Boulevards other than developments received 83 trees
- The City of Hutchinson lost 141 trees as of August 30, 2007, 59 elms, 21 maples, and 18 black ash, being the predominant species being removed in 2007

Mark stated that the “ Find the Biggest Tree Contest “ that is conducted during the annual Arbor Day program at Park Elementary is being proposed for this fall and asked if board members would be willing to assist again this year. Dale Redetzke said he would contact Nisha Withers, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher’s liaison, and propose such a program.

John Olson gave a power point presentation on the concept of incorporating Minnesota Statutes 429 into Forestry by initiating an assessment fee for tree removal on public boulevards. John outlined the idea by listing all currently assessed services and stated that of those allowed by state statutes, tree removal was the only one not being utilized by the City of Hutchinson at this time. John stated that different fees would be proposed for different sized trees. He outlined the costs that are incurred by the city relating to tree removal and recommended that an 80/20 split in costs for the removals be split by city/property owner.

The board questioned the size break down and recommended that a set cost per inch of tree diameter be established so as to make the costs easily calibrated by the property owner. John emphasized that this was just an introduction into the idea of such a fee and that he would bring back the cost per diameter inch fee rate back to board at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be September 24, 2007 at 5:pm in the City Center.

# Tree Board Minutes

## September 24, 2007

**Members Present:** Newt Potter, Dale Redetzke, Laura Poser,  
Steve Cook

**Members Absent:** Corey Stearns

**Also attending: =** Mark Schnobrich, City Forester

**The meeting was called to order at 5:PM and the minutes of the August 27,2007 meeting was approved.**

### **Items of Discussion:**

#### Cost associated with boulevard tree maintenance and removal

Mark discussed the proposal to share the costs of boulevard tree maintenance with adjacent property owners. It was proposed at the last Tree Board meeting that costs of tree removal be shared on an 80/20 basis with adjacent property owners with the City of Hutchinson paying 80% of the tree removal costs and the adjacent property owner paying 20%. U.S. Forest Service studies have shown that boulevard trees increase property values by 1% or more in those neighborhoods that have well maintained trees. The program is being proposed as a more responsive and responsible way of sharing the true costs of tree ownership on the boulevards. An example given was an average 18 inch diameter boulevard tree would cost the adjacent property owner \$108.00 or \$6.00 a diameter inch to remove. These costs would include removing the tree, grinding the stump and planting a new tree on their boulevard. As being proposed now, the adjacent property owner would be billed quarterly for the removals with replanting taking place either in the same year as the tree removal or the following spring.

#### Tree removal petition

Mark presented a petition received August 30<sup>th</sup> from Heather Kvale of 317 Circle Dr SW requesting that a 16 inch diameter Honey Locust tree be removed from her boulevard for health reasons. The petition was signed by 10 of the 15 residents living on that street. Discussion followed with Mark stating that the tree was a healthy locust tree and that he had discussed the trees removal with the resident at 317 Circle Dr SW earlier this summer. Mark stated that he told Heather Kvale that the city was reluctant to remove the boulevard tree based solely on the adjacent property owner's request. Mark told Heather that if she could wait to see if the health problem diminished over the summer that maybe the tree was not the health problem and it would then not need to be removed. Nothing was heard from the 317 Circle Dr SW resident until the petition was received on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Newton Potter questioned why all 15 residents did not sign the petition. Mark did not know the answer to that. Newt asked Mark to contact one resident , Steve Bailey, as to why he did not sign the petition. After further discussion the board voted in favor of removing the tree if in fact a health problem was caused by its presence on the boulevard.

### Find the Biggest Tree Contest

Dale Redetzke said he had contacted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade coordinator Nisha Withers and she requested that we wait until next spring to hold the contest. The board all agreed to wait until spring 2008.

### Energy Tree Report to the Utilities Commission

Mark stated that the date had been set for October 31, 2007 at 3:00PM for the Tree board to present the 2007 Energy Tree Report to the commission. Mark will contact each member to remind them of the date and time prior to the meeting. Mark will have the report completed and ready for review by the next Tree board meeting.

### Other Business

#### Tree Contractor Certification;

Mark discussed the pro and cons of requiring tree contractors to be certified by the City in order to conduct business within the city limits of Hutchinson. Currently tree contractors just submit a certificate of insurance to the City verifying that they have minimal liability coverage. This assures that both public and private tree owners are covered for damages should they occur.

Mark stated that some communities go much further than that and not only require proper insurance but also require that at least one member of the tree firm be an ISA [ International Society of Arboriculture ] Certified Arborist. Some communities also require that tree firms show evidence of continuing education within their field and that they follow standard safety precautions in respect to personnel protection equipment and gear.

Mark talked about the importance of having reliable contractors in the community during extreme conditions such as tornados and storms to protect citizens from fly-by-night operations that do not conform to current arboricultural and safety standards.

The board discussed the need for such a program here in Hutchinson and suggested that maybe such a requirement as certification would be called for when a tornado or other situation arose. They also requested that Mark look into what other contractors in town are required by the City of Hutchinson to have a license.

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Schnobrich  
City Forester

# →HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

Monday, October 29, 2007

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Center

## Agenda

**Members present:** \_\_\_ Corey Stearns, \_\_\_ Dale Redetzke, **X Laura Poser**, \_\_\_ Newton Potter, **X Steve Cook**, Mayor;

**Others Present:** **X Mark Schnobrich, City Forester; X John Olson, Public Works Manager**

Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.

There was a quorum of members present: \_\_\_ Y **X** N

Due to no quorum being present no formal decisions were made at this meeting

1. Approve Minutes of September 24, 2007 meeting  
**Tabled until next meeting.**

2. Review of Energy Tree Utility Report  
**Mark did discuss the upcoming presentation to the Utilities Commission on October 31, Wednesday, and gave each member present an updated copy of the presentation. The Tree Board is scheduled to present at 3:00 p.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Steve Cook suggested adding the number of trees removed to the report and also to report to the Commission the condition of our community forest by disclosing the tree specie breakdown that is currently found in Hutchinson. This information may be valuable in stressing the importance of continued planting of diversified tree species in the future.**

3. Discussion of council action on proposed tree fee system  
**No discussion on this topic.**

4. Preliminary discussion on Forestry Master Plan  
**John Olson briefly discussed the draft of the Forestry Master Plan and highlighted some of the findings of the plan. He mentioned what the size of trees as represented by percent of overall population is and what the percent the different make up of the community forest is. While the City's urban forest represents 39 different species, the majority of the population is comprised of relatively few species. Only 5 species make up 77% of the population. 39% of the City's tree population would be considered young (less than 6 inches in diameter. Just over 51% is considered maturing (between 6 inches and 24 inches in diameter. 8% would be considered mature (between two and three feet in diameter), and 2% would be considered over-mature (over three feet in diameter).**

**John also mentioned that pruning of boulevard trees was going well. However we are still behind if we are to follow industry standards. We currently prune about 352 trees a year. To reach our goal of pruning every boulevard tree every 5 years we would have to increase the number of trees pruned to 850 trees per year.**

5. Other Discussions/ New Business  
**Steve Cook suggested that the city web page should include a "Frequently Asked Tree Question" section to help citizens get answers to often asked tree questions.**

At 5:45 p.m., discussion meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: \_\_\_ November 26, 2007 at 5:00p.m., at the City Center.

# →HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

Monday, November 26, 2007  
5:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers, City Center

## Agenda

**Members present:** \_\_\_Corey Stearns, \_\_\_Dale Redetzke, \_X\_Laura Poser, \_X\_Newton Potter

**Others Present:** \_X\_Mark Schnobrich, City Forester; \_\_\_Steve Cook, Mayor;

Others present: \_\_\_\_\_**John Olson**\_\_\_\_\_

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Meeting called to order at 5:10 p.m.

There was a quorum of members present: \_\_\_Y \_√\_N

1. Approve Minutes of October 29, 2007 meeting

- Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_
- Motion second by \_\_\_\_\_

**Due to lack of a quorum no business was approved.**

2. Tree Line USA Designation

**Mark stated that he will be doing a two hour tree pruning training session for the Hutchinson Utilities line crew for their requirement to become a Tree Line USA utility. This designation is awarded to utility companies that are actively involved in their communities tree program and signifies that they are conscience of the value of trees.**

3. Forestry Master Plan

**John Olson gave a detailed outline of the master plan to the members present. He described the benefits to be derived from the plan and some of the preliminary results that have been compiled thus far. In summary it shows that pruning of trees along with removal of trees need to be addressed in the near future. Hutchinson needs to increase the number of trees pruned and decrease the number of trees removed in order to more closely reflect industry standards and to better follow our own goal of a 5 year cycle of pruning and less than 3% tree loss. John described some of the ways the Forestry crew was going to deal with this goal. He again told the tree board members that this was the purpose for the master plan as it provides an avenue for us to gauge our progress and short comings with respect to our community forest and to**

4. U.S. Forest Service I-Tree Program

**Mark spoke briefly about a new U.S. Forest Service tool that will help us assess all the information that has been compiled so far in our tree inventory. It will help determine economic evaluations and even calculate carbon absorption of our trees in our community. All these fancy values will help justify funding and help show the interrelation of trees and such things as storm water management and pollution control.**

5. Other Discussions/ New Business

At **6:00** p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_.

NEXT MEETING: \_\_\_\_\_to be determined due to holiday season.\_\_\_\_\_