

→HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

Monday, January 28, 2008

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Center

Minutes

Members present: ___ Corey Stearns, Dale Redetzke, Laura Poser, Newton Potter
 Steve Cook, Council Representative

Others Present: Mark Schnobrich, City Forester; ___ John Olson;

Others present: _____

Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

There was a quorum of members present: Y ___ N

1. Approve Minutes of November 26, 2008 meeting
 - Motion made by _____
 - Motion second by _____
2. 2008 Tree Planting Update

Mark spoke briefly on how the planning for 2008 tree planting was going. He stated that by utilizing the tree inventory he was able to plan for replacement of most of the trees that were removed by the location of the removals. This came to a total of 140 sites for trees to be replaced at the locations the trees were lost in 2007. Energy tree locations on private property are still pending as applications to private property owners are still being distributed.

Trees planned for developments came to a total of only 28 for 2008 as fewer new homes have become available for tree planting due to the slow home market.

Mark stated he will still be planning for more tree planting sites as the winter progresses and hopes to reach a total of 250 to 300 trees to be planted in 2008.
3. Forestry Master Plan

The board agreed to dedicate an entire meeting in March to the soul purpose of the Forestry Master Plan. The date set is March 31st. In the mean time Mark will be sending out support documentation for the board to review to assist them in their decision making.
4. 2008 Arbor Day

Mark reported that he was unable to contact the 3rd grade liaison at Park Elementary in regards to the 2008 Arbor Day program. He did say he thought he would hear from them soon in order to help set up the event. The board did agree to go ahead and promote the “ find the biggest tree contest “ again this year. Dale Redetzke suggested that the selected tree for 2008 should be an Ash tree. The board agreed. The tentative date for the event is the 3rd week in May 2008.
5. Other Discussions/ New Business

The board had some questions on the Emerald Ash borer and Mark indicated that the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture did in fact utilize some ash trees as trap trees in 2007 and then returned to survey them for EAB. No EAB was found and they will again come back in 2008 to set purple pheromone traps to monitor for the presence of the insects.

The idea of an Environmental board was again discussed and Mark stated he will put the concept on the next agenda for the February meeting. The idea is to expand the areas of citizen involvement to include all areas of environmental concern to help discern how those issues affect this community.

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourn.

NEXT MEETING: February 25, 2008

→HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

Monday, June 23, 2008

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Center

Minutes

Members present: Corey Stearns, Dale Redetzke, Newton Potter

Others Present: Mark Schnobrich, City Forester

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

There was a quorum of members present.

1. Tree Line USA Designation

Mark described the awards received by the Hutchinson Utility Commission, “Outstanding Partnership Award” from the State Urban Forestry Council (MNSTAR) and the “Tree Line USA Award” from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Both awards recognize the Utility Commission’s commitment to community forestry by funding tree planting and specifically training their crews to prune and underground trench around trees properly.

2. Forestry Master Plan

Mark stated that at the July Tree Board meeting the Master Plan will be discussed.

3. Summer Tree Update

To date, 27 trees have been removed, 143 have been planted, and 157 trees are yet to be planted.

4. Other Discussions/New Business

There were no further discussions.

At 6:20 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Corey, second by Newton.

The next Tree Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 28, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. at the City Center Council Chambers.

→HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

Monday, July 28, 2008

5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, City Center

Minutes

Members present: Corey Stearns, Dale Redetzke, Newton Potter, Steve Cook

Others Present: Mark Schnobrich, City Forester, John Olson, Public Works Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

There was a quorum of members present.

1. Tree Removal Contractor Licensing

Mark discussed the concept of licensing tree contractors in the City of Hutchinson after receiving complaints from two citizens and two local tree contractors. The complaints stemmed around unscrupulous business practices along with damage complaints and incorrect tree practices. The tree board agreed to recommend that some form of licensing take place and recommended that Mark review levels of licensing compliance and submit to the board options with which to review. Steve Cook also requested that Mark get input from some of the local tree contractors as to what the draft requirements should include for licensing.

2. Forestry Master Plan

Mark and John Olson presented the latest draft copy of the Forestry Master Plan to the board. After long discussion the board came up with a few recommendations. The master plan should be considered as part of the city comprehensive plan and that the review of a soil amendment stipulation is reconsidered again. As the board members remember, the idea of soil amendment stipulations in new developments was presented at length to the Planning Commission and the City Council a few years ago with heavy review by local building contractors. The soil amendment requirement was itself amended to require developers to pay for planting of boulevard trees in their developments. The problem of poor soil in developments has not disappeared however, and at the present soil conditions are even worse in some areas affecting not only tree growth but also storm water runoff and over all water usage. This prompted the board to request a review of the old proposed soil amendment requirements.

3. Other Discussion / Business

A letter was received by Countryside Flagpole Company requesting the removal of a boulevard tree located in front of a business located at 575 Jefferson St SE. Mike Eiden of Pro Auto Transmission and Repair wants to display an American Flag. The board reviewed the request and agreed to inspect the site themselves and determine if another Location would work for the pole negating the need to remove a boulevard tree.

At 6:40 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Corey, second by Newton.

The next Tree Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 25, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. at the City Center.

→HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

Monday, September,29 2008
5:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Center

Minutes

Members present: _X_ Corey Stearns, _X_ Dale Redetzke, _X_ Laura Poser, _X_ Newton Potter,

Members absent: _X_ Steve Cook,

Others Present: _X_ Mark Schnobrich, City Forester; _X_ John Olson, Public Works Supervisor

Others present: _Gus Wurdell, Hutchinson Mall Representative_____

Meeting called to order at _5:15_ p.m.

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

1. Hutchinson Mall Highway 15 South Sign Visual Problems

Gus Wurdell of the Hutchinson Mall presented his request to have trees removed along Highway 15 South that blocked the Mall marquee and entrance sign into the mall property. Visuals were shown depicting the sign blockage due to trees. The Tree Board acknowledged that visibility was blocked due to the trees but also some blockage was due to a KFC sign from the south and a Holiday store sign from the north. Mark Schnobrich asked if the mall was still looking at replacing the tall existing sign with a low monument sign that could be seen from the below the tree canopy. Gus stated that the mall is willing to replace those trees that are removed to alleviate blockage at a three to one ratio and that \$15,000 to landscape as compared to a new \$40,000 sign was an option the Mall would rather propose.

The Tree Board reviewed the visuals depicting the blockage and suggested that four trees be removed, one north of the entrance and three to the south of the entrance thus providing adequate spaced sighting of the sign from the highway.

Schnobrich indicated that because the trees lie within the Minnesota Department of Transportation Right of Way, that a request to remove them due to sign blockage must be made to the District Engineer. Mark passed out the required MnDOT memorandum to Mr. Wurdell for him to review.

2. Alternative Landscape Request from Rich Westland for lot located at 1165 West Shore Dr SW

Rich Westland, owner of an undeveloped lot at 1165 West Shore Dr SW submitted to the Tree Board an Alternative Landscape plan to install prairie grasses on his lot. He completed the form as required with one discontented neighbor indicating that they would prefer not to have such a landscape in their neighborhood.

The Board reviewed the site via visual images and approved the request emphasizing that areas bordering the neighbors must be maintained using mowed buffers between the natural vegetation and the manicured adjacent lawns.

3. Discussion of revising the Soil Enhancement guidelines.

The last time it was presented was in 2002

The board briefly discussed reintroducing to the Planning Commission a revised soil enhancement requirement for all new residential and commercial construction. The continued deterioration of soil quality as a result of construction techniques is resulting in detrimental impacts to our community. Such things as increased irrigation costs, increased flooding and storm water management costs, and landscape plant health. The objective is to encourage planners and developers to prevent damage to soil quality and soil function by helping them target critical points in the construction and development process. Mark will compile a draft standard that can be reviewed by the board as a possible document to send on to the Planning Commission for their review.

4. Other Discussions/ New Business

- Boulevard Tree removal due to adjacent property construction “Policy”

Tree removal on the boulevard as a result of private property construction is a factor in losing boulevard trees. In the past, an unwritten policy was to have the property owner who is requiring the removal to pay for a replacement tree to be planted in the area of town where the removal is taking place. The board reviewed this policy concept and recommended that Mark write a draft policy that could be utilized this year to allow potential property owners to become aware of this policy. Such verbiage as “ must pay for removal of existing tree” and “ a one to one replacement is minimum requirement for removing a boulevard tree” would be in the policy.

At 7:10 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made.

NEXT MEETING: _October 27, 2008

3. Discussion of 2009 Energy Tree Planting Program

Schnobrich proposed a revamping of the program by increasing the number of bare root trees planted in 2009 by utilizing the Missouri gravel bed system. He emphasized the savings in purchase price from containers to bare root would allow the hiring of one more tree inspector/planter and still allow for more trees to be planted throughout the City of Hutchinson in 2009.

4. Other Issues/ New Business

Mayor Cook expressed interest in reviewing the elm tree injection idea. He also brought to the board's attention the city comprehensive plan review, scheduled for 2009. This would be good timing as the Tree Board is currently looking at incorporating the soil enhancement policy if and when it is adopted.

Next scheduled meeting will be January 26, 2009 at 5:00 PM.