

HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD

[meet at City Hall]

Monday, July 27, 2009

5:00 p.m.

City Center Main Conference Room

Agenda

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

Members absent

Others Present: Mark Schnobrich, City Forester; ___

Others present: ___ John Olson, Public Works Supervisor ___

Meeting called to order at ___5 :15 p.m.

There was a quorum of members present: Y ___N

1.) Revision of Removal Request for Mall Sign

(Gus Wurdell has revised his request for tree removal by changing which trees he wants removed from around his sign)

The Tree Board discussed the request and proposed another scenario. Staff was requested to contact Miles Seppelt to pursue the possibility of a joint effort in establishing a monument sign at the entrance to the mall thus allowing the trees to remain. The topic of precedence in approving this tree removal request for sign clearance was also discussed and standards were requested to be drafted by staff for future use in such incidences.

If the joint sign venture does not work out with EDA then the Tree Board approved the removal of the four trees adjacent to the mall entrance off of Hwy 15 South.

2.) Emerald Ash borer

(Review of recommended procedures the City of Hutchinson should take in dealing with Emerald Ash borer, EAB)

John Olson presented the staffs recommended procedures in dealing with Emerald Ash Borer when it appears in Hutchinson. In summation staff will reconfirm the cities ability to legally tag and require homeowners to remove their trees as per our Tree Disease standards listed in the city ordinances.

The procedure for handling infested ash trees will go through levels one and two. Level one will be that all trees when initially found to have Emerald Ash Borer, whether public or private, will be required to be rendered pest free by being hauled to Creek Side and chipped according to state MDA and DNR standards. Level two will be implemented when such time that EAB has reached a level of infestation in the community that wood movement would be restricted to only the State of Minnesota's mandated quarantine and the wood could be utilized as lumber or firewood within the quarantine area.

3.) Other Business

The Tree Board did discuss the next meeting and it was determined that a field trip reviewing forestry projects would be organized.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Schnobrich

The policy also states that close cooperation with both the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources will be undertaken during the following years leading up to and after EAB is found in our area.

3.) Other Business

Field Trip/Tour of Tree Projects was undertaken with nine stops made by the Tree Board . The Tree Board looked at the Americ Inn sign blockage then proceeded to review three newer developments where Mark highlighted the tree planting projects that went on in those developments. It was noted that the outcome of the tree plantings in each of the developments was the result of dollars escrowed by the developers for trees to be planted on the boulevards in their prospective development. The outcome has been that some of the neighborhoods now have all their boulevards planted and some have the neighborhood parks also planted with these tree dollars.

The Tree Board then proceeded to review developments where discussion occurred in regards to poor soil conditions resulting from previous development practices. A program originating in the state of Washington deals with such problem soils by requiring developers to amend the soils at the end the construction process resulting in better storm water control and better landscapes. The Tree Board reviewed these practices and will discuss the possibility of recommending these policies here in Hutchinson.

The meeting / tree tour ended at 6:30 pm.

HUTCHINSON TREE BOARD at City Hall

Monday, November 30, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Corey Stearns, Laura Poser, Newton Potter,

Members absent ___ Steve Cook, Mayor; Dale Redetzke

Others Present: ___ Mark Schnobrich, City Forester; ___

Others present: ___

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

There was a quorum of members present: Y ___N

1.) Tree Removal Request for Americ Inn Sign

Mark reported that one crab apple had been removed to improve visibility of the Americ Inn sign. It was agreed by the board that the tree removal would stop at this point as the adjacent property owner was concerned of her privacy reduction if more trees would actually be removed. It was also noted that visibility was more than adequate at least 7 months of the year without any trees being removed.

2.) Emerald Ash borer, Update of proposal to County

The Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture EAB grant application was submitted and notification of grant recipients will be announced by Dec. 15th. \$875,000 was available and over \$4,350,000 was applied for. Mark stated that competition for these grant dollars will be very aggressive.

3.) Adams Street Improvement project Tree Removal

A total of 117 trees will be removed if all trees on Adams St were to be part of the project. Only 77 trees will be removed if the project only includes the west side of Adams.

The project is to include a highway reconstruct along with a 10 foot wide pedestrian / bikeway path on the west side. This pedestrian / bikeway path is the cause for the large number of trees being removed. Mark is working with Stonebrooke Engineering architects to design a replanting and landscaping for the length of the project which will include areas in front of 3M company. Public input and further design will take place prior to the beginning of the project which will be spring of 2010.

4.) Winter Pruning schedule

Winter pruning has begun with alleys and sidewalks all being completed already and full fledged boulevard pruning will begin now the 2nd week of December.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm