

Maquoketa Tree Board  
5/8/2023 @ 5:00 PM

The City of Maquoketa Tree Board met on May 8, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall with Montoya, Edwards, Short in attendance with River by phone and Ketelsen from City. There was no audience. The Agenda and Minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Montoya and River. Due to the resignation of Muhlhausen, Edwards conducted the remainder of the meeting.

The Financial Report was reviewed. A discussion was held on the removal list and Edwards related that due to many trees not being leafed out sufficiently, she would have the removal list ready for rating at the June meeting.

The 14 trees from the Trees Forever Grant that were to be planted on West Platt but due to IDOT requirements, the location will need to be changed. On a motion by Short and Montoya, it was approved to move the location for these trees to Farmland Drive starting at Summit and continuing until all planted.

The spring 23 DNR grant was discussed as there are 13 trees remaining to be planted due to problems with utilities in the boulevards on Main street which prevented planting in many locations. On a motion by Montoya and Short, those trees will be planted on Second Street and Grove Street Ball Park outfield.

A discussion was held on private hazard trees as there are so many dead ash trees on private property. City Manager indicated it is questionable whether letters according to the Tree Ordinance would produce the results necessary. It was decided to only invoke the ordinance procedure when a tree is deemed to be a hazard to others along sidewalks or other public areas.

The issue presented by the Master Gardeners on the signage and trees at Horseshoe Pond Entrance was tabled until more information is available. A meeting will be arranged between the Master Gardeners, Tree Board and Public Works to arrive at a workable plan.

Upon receiving the resignation of Muhlhausen, a discussion was held on a new President. On a motion by Edwards and Montoya, Short was elected President to fill the rest of Muhlhausen's office term.

Tree complaints were reviewed and Edwards related the DNR representative's comments on the Steines complaint as well subsequent conversations with Steines. It was decided per those conversations to not request PW trim the branch as requested by Steines but to continue to watch for possible hazard to the home. DNR rep indicated that the tree is a sturdy tree with one point against it being it's a soft maple but it's not her belief that it's a hazard to the Steines home.

A discussion was held on the IDOT mandate that the 22 trees already planted on West Platt have to be moved. No decision was made on new locations and it was related that probably too late for moving this spring and will be delayed until fall.

Meeting adjourned.

Elaine Edwards