

Maquoketa Tree Board  
6/20/2023 @ 5:00 PM

Present: Glenn Short, DeAnn Montoya, Elaine Edwards

Absent: Amanda River

Others: Jan Ketelsen

The City of Maquoketa Tree Board met on June 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall. There was no audience. The Agenda and Minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion by Montoya and Edwards.

The financial report was reviewed and it was decided to only utilize \$20,000 from the tree/stump removal as we will need funds for auger costs, ad costs and possible ash tree treatment.

Ketelsen updated the Board on the tree removal and sign replacement along with new landscaping at the entrance to Horseshoe Pond. The removals haven't been requested yet so it may be close to fall before beginning this project. Short brought up that Black Hills has a grant for trees and to visit their website for specifics. This grant is separate from the Black Hills grant thru Trees Forever. He felt due to amounts received by the City thru that program, Black Hills probably wouldn't fund a City request but other organizations in Maquoketa could receive funding. He can provide a contact person, if needed. Montoya will contact Burmahl of Master Gardeners and the Maquoketa School District to provide information on this grant.

Ketelsen related that the trees on Platt Street had to be removed and planted in another spot by July 1st. The Tree Board members were extremely upset with this information as we were originally told there wasn't a time limit to have this done. The Board expressed their belief that the trees can't stand the stress of moving and will probably die especially when moved in the middle of the summer with a drought. Edwards related that she had hoped that the DNR would collaborate with the City and the IDOT to complete the permit process but can't be done within the time line. Montoya expressed her dismay as well since she had written the grant application and used Platt as one location at the request of City Administration and was concerned that it will affect future grant applications. On a motion by Edwards and Short, it was moved to replant the trees at Entrance to Husco and fill in East Summit past the YMCA if there is no other option from DOT. Montoya was a nay. The location was changed later on a email vote to plant all at Horseshoe Pond Campground which was approved by Short, Montoya, and Edwards.

Montoya went over a timeline and request for changes in procedure before completing the Trees Forever Grant application which is due November 1, 2023 for planting 2024. She would like to see this be a grant application for replacing trees on private property and has a number of suggestions for changes in the Private Tree Application. She will work on the application and suggested a time line with advertising in August, applications due in September which would give October to ok locations and prepare the grant application. A discussion was held on the private tree application process if there should be too many applications and it was suggested to make sure applicant knows if we receive more applications than money, that applicant will be first in line for the next years program.

A discussion was held on the placement for the Tree City USA sign. It is a large 3 x 3 or larger sign and very colorful. Edwards related that we would like at one of the entrances but due to permits, it would probably have to be the North and South entrances. If no permits needed, then one at Highway 61/64 entrance and probably South entrance but felt that PW would have to make final determination.

Final discussion was held on the tree complaints with the following letters suggested by the Tree Board: Fred Droste at 217 N Olive, trees will be trimmed; Nichole Olson at 320 S Main, 2 trees to be removed, we will place on list and remove when budget allows; Nancy Peiffer at 314 N 2nd, ruining sidewalk, we do not remove live trees but this is declining and it will remain on the watch list but not removed until necessary; and Sam McLaughlin at 207 W Maple, 2 large trees leaning toward house, we do not remove live trees but will retain on the watch list.

On a motion by Edwards and Short, the meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Edwards