

Maquoketa Tree Board
8-14-2023

Present: Glenn Short, DeAnn Montoya, Elaine Edwards

Absent: Amanda River

Others: Jan Ketelsen

The City of Maquoketa Tree Board met on August 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall with Edwards, Montoya and Short in attendance and Ketelsen from City Hall. There was no audience. The agenda and minutes of the July meeting were approved by Montoya and Edwards.

The financials were reviewed with no changes since prior meeting and still showing a deficit for the fiscal year of 2022/2023.

After review of the tree removal bids, Montoya and Edwards made a motion to submit the bid from Steines Logging, which was the low bid, to the City Council for approval.

The Trees Forever Carbon Credit program was discussed. The next step is to send available tree addresses to Nick and he will complete an inventory of those that qualify with hopes of enrolling 100 trees in the program. When the inventory is completed and actual dollars that could be earned is known, a motion will be needed to submit to City Council for approval to enroll.

Montoya has been working on the Trees Forever grant application that will be due in November. It is anticipated that Maquoketa will submit primarily for private trees for this round due in part to the number of Ash trees being removed on private property. Montoya is also working with the Superintendent of Maquoketa Schools on a grant for trees on school property and utilizing students in the planting process.

Tree complaints were reviewed and Edwards related that she and Nick, our rep from Trees Forever, looked at the split tree in the boulevard in front of Chris Nissen home at 413 W Pleasant. Nick had a concern that it couldn't be saved but Chris has a desire to save and hired an arborist to help and the arborist believes it is possible. We gave our blessing to continue with the project.

Under other Business, Edwards related that when Ordinances are reviewed again, she would like to see one sentence added to the section where it says a tree can be planted in a boulevard. "When City or Private person is given permission to plant a tree in the boulevard, the property owner is responsible for upkeep and maintenance with final removal being completed by the City."

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

Elaine Edwards, Secretary