

Maquoketa Tree Board  
2-12-2024 @ 5:00 P.M.

Present: Amanda River, Ashley River, Glenn Short, DeAnn Montoya, Elaine Edwards

Absent: None

Others: Jan Ketelsen, Josh Boldt

The City of Maquoketa Tree Board met with no audience in attendance. The Agenda was approved on a motion by Elaine and DeAnn and the minutes of the January meeting were approved on a motion by DeAnn and Glenn.

The financials were reviewed with no changes but Jan said she does have the bill for tree removals from Steines and that will be reflected next month. Josh indicated that there is a City budgetary shortfall for fiscal year 2023/2024 and all available dollars in the Tree Board budget have been directed to the General Fund which leaves no funds in the Tree Board budget for the rest of the budget year. This will affect what we will have available to fund tree purchases to supplement the Trees Forever Grant.

The Tree Board asked Josh about how the Briggs expansion will affect the Little Bear Park area since there are multiple ash trees that will need removal and the Tree Board planted trees there in last few years that might be able to be moved. Josh indicated that he had reports that Briggs is considering purchasing the North portion of the Park which would include all North of the pavilion. Edwards questioned if we could possibly move trees from this portion to replace some of the ash that will need removal in the future.

Discussion was held on the letter to go to Private Tree recipients and Glenn related he had not received a response from Black Hills rep and assumes the letter meets their requirements. Elaine asked if could add a statement saying mulch also helps keep mower far enough away so it doesn't damage tree base and to be careful if weed whacking near base.

Jan related the Tree City Application has been submitted for Maquoketa.

The tree complaint received for 311/315 S 2nd was discussed and a letter will be sent that the tree will be placed on the watch list and be reviewed annually.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by DeAnn and Elaine