

The City of Maquoketa Tree Board met on February 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers with Montoya, Muhlhausen, Short, Edwards and Ketelsen from City Offices in attendance and River attending via zoom. There was no Audience. The Agenda and Minutes of the October meeting were approved on a motion by Edwards and Short. Everyone welcomed our new member, Amanda River to her first meeting.

A short discussion was held on the financials, as we have spent the budget for the fiscal year 2022/2023. The new fiscal year will begin July 1, 2023.

Edwards related that she will compile a removal list but we can't really rank until trees leaf out this spring. Then we will have bids ready for removal asap after the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Ash tree treatment at Little Bear and Grove Street Parks was discussed. It was related that the treatment should be done in early spring but we will not have dollars until July. Also, some on the Board aren't sure we should spend on Tree Treatment as there is woodpecker activity which can be a sign of the borer. Edwards related that she would like to treat at least one more time as scientist may come up with a new and better treatment. She also indicated the trees are large mature trees and will take multiple years for new trees to reach the maturity to provide similar shade to the playground and dugouts. Montoya and Edwards researched planting Grant trees now for replacements but found there isn't room for new tree and costs increase for removal when new trees impede removal so it really isn't viable to plant before trees are removed.

Discussions were held on the Trees Forever and DNR Grants. Request for Bids were sent to Vendors for both and the bids have been received for the Trees Forever with Kelly Tree Service lowest as 1 bid had only 3 species available and one vendor requires annual purchases of \$7,500 or more and last one was for \$5,942 with Kelly lowest at \$5,455. It is hoped that we will be able to have a spring planting for both grants and continue to involve youth/school groups. Montoya said the DNR grant is nearly ready for submission for the full amount of \$10,000 for approximately 47 trees and 40 tree diapers. Public Works was consulted for a planting date and a day in May was agreed upon and Montoya will check out the proposed date and include in the grant.

There were no tree complaints in file.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Montoya and Short.

Elaine Edwards, Secretary