

Vermillion City Tree Board

Meeting Minutes

February 16th, 2022

Present: Rich Holland, Jim Goblirsch, Pete Jahn, Nate Steele, Jake Kidney, Aaron Baedke, Kelly Knutson, John Prescott

Jim Goblirsch opened the meeting.

Old Business:

Minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting were discussed; no comments were received.

Goblirsch reported that he has not heard the status of the 2022 COV Tree City USA application. Steele reported that USD did receive Tree Campus Higher Education for 2022.

New Business:

Goblirsch shared with the group about two new city staff on the Tree Board- Kelly Knutson and Dan Hanson. Steele brought three members of the USD grounds crew with him to the meeting.

Jahn shared with the group about tree removal in the City of Vermillion, still focusing on Ash trees and any other trees that are dead, diseased, or dying, Steele reported that they are removing ash trees along the highway 50 bypass. They also both noted that some of the trees are already “turning” colors and are ready to start budding. Everyone seemed a little uncomfortable with that knowing that colder weather will still be coming this winter.

Goblirsch shared with the group about a local disc golf group clearing out tree in and near Cotton Park.

Goblirsch gave an update about the SD DANR contact in Sioux Falls if anyone needed that contact and the everyone down here will still be getting “bug” traps from Dale Anderson in Pierre.

A quick discussion was held about the Clay County handplant order form by the group.

Other business

Goblirsch gave a quick update on the new elementary school project that will be built in the southern half of Barstow Park. The location will impact 15-19 trees that have been planted in the last 5 years, City staff is working on a plan to relocate the trees in other city parks and or property.

The group also talked about the downtown city scape trees.

Nate Steele informed the group that USD is looking for a community member to sit on the Tree Campus Higher Education board, if anyone is interested, they should contact him directly.

Nate then shared with the group that he and a couple of other USD grounds staff attended the South Dakota and North Dakota chapters of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) annual conference in Aberdeen in January. He reported that three members including himself have become ISA Certified Arborist's- congrats to all of you!

Goblirsch brought up the question how USD handles "memorial" trees on campus. A discussion ensued with markers, naming, and how to keep the tree recognized for the individual.

Future items to be discussed

Goblirsch gave a quick Arbor Day update and shared with the group that - 10 Heritage Oak trees will be offered for the Re-tree Vermillion in 2022. Again, this year they will be available at Ace Hardware in Vermillion for \$25 pending a COV Tree permit was filled out & approved.

Goblirsch shared the next Tree Board meeting will be March 23.

Meeting adjourned.