

## **Vermillion City Tree Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

March 27, 2019

Present: Joan Doss, Jim Goblirsch, Ryan Baedke, Pete Jahn, Aaron Baedke, Cylie Hanson, John Prescott, Nate Steele

Jim Goblirsch opened the meeting.

#### *Old Business:*

Minutes were reviewed from last meeting, no changes offered.

Goblirsch introduced new Community Tree Board appointment- Joan Doss. Prescott shared with the board that her term will end in September however she will be able to apply for a new term at that time when the Expression of interest form open for the seat. The group all introduced themselves to her.

Goblirsch gave update on the updating the current approved tree list for the City of Vermillion. It was shared with the group that Jahn, Goblirsch and R. Baedke had a meeting to further investigate a new list. Discussion was held why some trees from the list were omitted and some were added. The group decided that the example format of the "street tree guide" will be used. Staff will continue to work on the list and with a printing company to get this published.

Jahn gave an update on a proactive approach on using a City ordinance to help ease the stress when the EAB is found within 15 miles of the City limits. Items included in the ordinance would include the treatment of Ash trees, transportation of the wood, and cutting of Ash trees. Discussion was held and City Staff will continue to work on this.

#### *New Business:*

Goblirsch updated the group about the 2019 Re-tree Vermillion Program. An Espresso Kentucky Coffee species will be the offered tree; this will be a good boulevard tree, seedless and hardy. The trees will be purchased from Nursery Wholesalers out of Tea, SD. Trees will be stored at the Service Center and can be picked up for \$25 once Tree Permits are filled out and approved by the City Tree Specialist. Goblirsch shared with the group that the trees may not be available for pick up until late April or early May due to difficulty harvesting them in Minnesota, more concrete date will be available after April 1st.

Goblirsch gave an update on having a Dr. John Ball brought in to host a public forum to discuss the EAB and how it will affect the community. Goblirsch is having difficulties contacting Dr. Ball to iron out a date and a time for the forum, he will follow up with him again this week.

#### *Future items to be discussed:*

Goblirsch and Baedke shared an update with the group about the Arbor Day celebration. The Date will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at noon in Prentis Park near the Prentis Plunge bathhouse if there are no locate issues. The

tree to be planted will be an Autumn Blaze Pear tree. Hartington Tree Company will supply the tree and spade it in. Baedke will work with the elementary school to get kids there and work on publicity for the event. Prescott worked with the COV utility billing to have a short Arbor Day message added to the April bill inspiring people to plant a tree. Goblirsch will make sure the Arbor Day information will be posted on COV social media accounts. Lastly, Prescott has arranged the COV City Council to read an Arbor Day Proclamation and recognize Vermillion as a Tree City USA recipient for the 34<sup>th</sup> year at the April 15<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

*Other business:*

Nate Steele from USD informed the group that USD was named a Tree Campus USA recipient for the third year in a row. Steele also shared: various USD groups will be planting trees around the USD campus over Arbor Day, they are working on a plan of action on what to do when EAB is found in or near Vermillion, they will not be doing a gravel nursery in 2019 however offered to help the COV if they would like to do so, USD is working on a campus tree inventory that would be interactive for each individual tree however noted it would be very expensive.

Goblirsch and R. Baedke shared with the group about 15 additional trees that were purchased and that they will be planted throughout the community around Arbor Day by City staff and volunteer groups. Goblirsch also shared with the group about the Clark Street sidewalk project and that through cooperation with the COV Engineering Dept, 15 trees will be included in the project. Prescott also shared with the group about an ordinance about new construction homes needing a tree in the front yard.

Next scheduled meeting will be scheduled for 9:00 am April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned.