

Vermillion City Tree Board

Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2019

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

Jim Goblirsch opened the meeting.

Old Business:

Minutes were reviewed from last meeting, Goblirsch announced to the group the minor grammatical errors were corrected since minutes went out.

Goblirsch passed out first draft copies of the EAB treatment application. Jahn the creator of the draft was not is attendance to go into great detail of it. Discussion was held on why it is needed and how the process would work for the public to use it. Goblirsch went on to share with the group that this EAB application another step in combating the infestation of EAB. He reported that the EAB ordinance is still being worked on by City staff with hopes of a draft coming out soon.

Goblirsch passed out cut first draft copies of the new COV Street tree guide for the board review. Discussion was held and comments were taken. Suggestions included by the board were: to make sure local retailers have access to the list, adding a UPC code to the list to ease the ability to view pictures of the tree, ranking them in growth rate order, and size. Goblirsch gave details of the selected tree species and cultivars, why they were selected, and how and where the public would be able to access this list. City staff will continue to work on the guide.

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 May 6th due to difficulty harvesting them in Minnesota. Trees will be stored at the City Service Center and community members will need to set up an appointment to pick up the trees.

Goblirsch gave an update on hosting Dr. John Ball for a public forum to discuss the EAB and how it will affect the community. Goblirsch announced that Tuesday, May 14th will be the evening that the presentation will be made. It will be hosted in the COV Council Chambers, the session will be recorded and be available for public viewing though COV website and social media sites. Discussion was held on advertisement of the presentation and other public entities that might want to attend.

Goblirsch and Baedke shared an update with the group about the Arbor Day celebration. The date will be April 26th at noon in Prentis Park near the Prentis Plunge bathhouse. The tree to be planted will be an Autumn Blaze Pear tree. Hartington Tree Company will supply the tree and spade it in. Baedke has confirmed that Jolly elementary school kids will be in attendance. Prescott arranged for the COV City Council to read an Arbor Day Proclamation and recognize Vermillion as a Tree City USA recipient for the 34th year at the April 15th City Council meeting, Goblirsch accepted the proclamation and invited COV City Council members to attend the tree planting.

Goblirsch also reminded the Board that COV Parks staff have logged and will continue to log all City tree plantings. Location and type are recorded with the hope that it can be used to help diversify what is planted in the future.

R. Baedke showed examples to the Board of what EAB traps and Japanese Beetle traps look like and how they are set. Discussion was held.

Other business:

Goblirsch and R. Baedke shared with the group about 53 trees that were purchased and that they will be planted throughout the community on and 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.

A. Baedke brought up the topic about making sure the Vermillion School District was aware of all the Ash trees they have on their property. City Staff explained that they have come to the City to discuss this and asked for guidance on it. Discussion then was brought up about planting an Arbor Day tree on the school grounds to help them out as well as increasing awareness about the importance of trees. Staff will look into the for the 2020 Arbor Day activities.

Next scheduled meeting will be scheduled for 6:00pm May 14th, 2019 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned.