

Manchester Tree Advisory Board Agenda

January 4, 2022

5:30PM

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Call to Order – Chairman Stemmler @ 5:36PM

In attendance –*Errol Tate (Public Works Director), Board Liaison Dave Pracht (assistant Director of Public Works), Mayor Mike Clement, Board Chairman Mike Stemmler, Board Member Nancy Miller, Board Member Matthew Broderick, Board Member Karen Zelle, Alderman Ottenad, Alderman Megan Huether, Recreation Supervisor Stephanie Hardesty, and Urban Forestry Consultant Jacob McMains.*

Approve Minutes from October 4, 2021 Tree Advisory Board Meeting – *approved*

New Tree Board Member – *Dave*

New board member Matthew Broderick introduced himself and gave fellow attendees a glimpse of his background. Matthew worked for Shaw Nature Reserve, holds a degree in horticulture, and has a background in arboriculture working in both the public and private sectors. Matthew brings with him almost 40 years of experience working in the industry to the board. Welcome Matthew!!!

Manchester Staffing Updates – *Dave & Jacob*

Jacob provided an update that Andy Berg has left DRG, and we wish him well. DRG is aspiring to fill Andy's position sometime first quarter and in his stead, Jacob will take up the yoke of Andy's old responsibilities.

Dave provided some internal Manchester staffing updates. Tyler left the City and Dave introduced Errol Tate who is now the new public works director. Also, that Melanie Rippetoe has left the City and Todd Streiler is the new Planning and Zoning Director.

Old Business

1. 2021-2022 TRIM Grant update – *Jacob McMains (DRG)*

Jacob provided an update of the TRIM project and stated that the City is awaiting the cooperative agreement with MDC. Jacob has been in contact with community forester Mark Grueber and Mark will be following up with the agreement asap. Kat has expressed interest in completing the removals in Spring so the next step would be to implement the actual removal work once the cooperative agreement is in place. Jacob also encouraged the board to begin considering project ideas for the next grant cycle.

2. Right-of-Way Ash Tree Letters – Code Enforcement

Dave provided an update on the letters for right-of-way ash trees. Letters have been sent and public response was good (~300 responses per Mayor Clement). Citizens who received a letter have until early May to respond to the letter and/or address their right-of-way ash tree.

Megan and Nancy provided some positive feedback on the outreach program and gave insight into some other neighborhood-level outreach that occurred. Mayor Clement reported that the City has approved aid for homeowners with ash removals.

Mike Stemmler brought up a re-inventory of right-of-way trees. Dave pointed out that the City is still a couple of years away from an update (last inventory was 2016, MDC likes to see updates occur at 8 years) and that the board should pursue TRIM grant funding for this endeavor.

3. Tree Walk Update – Parks Staff

Stephanie informed the board that a guided tree walk in Margaret Scholte Park on April 21st. Jacob from DRG will be there and providing the guided walk. Board members inquired about manageable group size and age groups. Jacob informed the board that one staff member could handle ~30 individuals but another DRG staff member could be brought in that day if registration is high.

New Business

1. Arbor Day Tree City USA Application & Growth Award Application Update – Jacob

Jacob let the board know that the Tree City and Growth Award applications were submitted in December. Dave Pracht has access to the Tree City account and is listed as the contact on the applications. He should receive notification in 4-6 weeks on the status of these applications.

2. Arbor Day 2022 Planning – Parks Staff

Stephanie provided an update on Arbor Day which will occur on April 23rd. This year will be coupled with the art fair and will occur in-person for the first time in a couple of years. Stephanie also listed that tree seedlings (475 total) will be provided and potentially a tree planting (awaiting confirmation from the mayor). A small discussion also occurred about other tree talks or activities for Arbor Day with nothing solidified.

3. Other Topics -- All

None were presented

4. Next Meeting & Schedule

Dave provided the future tree board meeting dates for 2022: April 5th, July 12th, October 4th all @ 5:30PM via Zoom

Adjournment

Board adjourned at 6:13PM