

## TREE COMMISSION

January 19, 2021

The January 19, 2021 Tree Commission meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the park maintenance building located in Harrison Smith Park by Sara Lou Binau, Chairman. Tree Commission members present were Sara Lou Binau, Roxie Karg, Bill Thornton, and John Walker. Judi Lambrite was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Keith Niederkohr, Parks Manager; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the October 19, 2020 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the November 16, 2020 Tree Commission meeting, having been mailed to each Tree Commission member, were approved as received.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that Mr. Robin Schuster, 505 North Fifth Street, has reimbursed the City for the expenses incurred in planting a new tree, following an incident in 2020 where Mr. Schuster had a tree cut down, which was located in the tree lawn, without permission from the City and in violation of the City's Codified Ordinances. Mr. Niederkohr noted that the Parks Department may mulch and put finishing touches on the newly planted tree this spring.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that all of the trees purchased in the fall were planted either in the City's parks or the City right-of-ways. There have been eleven (11) or twelve (12) memorial plaques installed recently along side donated trees. There was a large tree on South Hazel Street that went down during a storm in November 2020 and another large tree found to be dead that has been removed.

Tree Commission members reviewed the meeting schedule for 2021 with meetings to be held on the following dates: January 19, March 15, April 19, June 21, August 16, and October 18. In the event that one of these meetings is cancelled a meeting will be held on November 15.

Mr. Niederkohr reported that two (2) of the weeping willow trees in Duck Pond Park are in bad condition and will be removed by Bill Sowers when the weather permits. New trees may be replanted in this area in the fall. Mr. Walker suggested the removal of a third weeping willow in this park. Mr. Niederkohr noted that the third weeping willow is in good shape and he would prefer that the new trees to be planted get some growth before the removal of the third weeping willow.

Mr. Niederkohr suggested the possibility of the City observing Arbor Day in the same manner that took place on November 16, 2020 in Harrison Smith Park, except that it occur in Duck Pond Park with the trees to be planted to replace the weeping willow trees that were just discussed.

Mrs. Binau presented members with a blank copy of an application for Winter Fantasy of Lights funding and her suggestion that an application be submitted to fund the replacement of the Ivory Silk Lilac trees located in the downtown area. Mrs. Binau noted that the existing Ivory Silk Lilac trees are overgrown and need to be removed and replaced. It was noted that the City's Parks Department was awarded funding from the Winter Fantasy of Lights in 2019 for the pickleball, basketball, and tennis courts and it is unknown if another application can be submitted this soon. Other sources of funding were discussed including donations and the Geary Foundation. Mr. Niederkohr indicated that he relies on tree contractors for work on trees in the downtown area for reasons including electric lines and rootballs. Mr. Niederkohr can obtain a quote from a tree contractor for this work.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

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Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

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Sara Lou Binau, Chairman