

Minutes from North Liberty Tree and Storm Water Advisory Board Meeting

April 13, 2022, 7:00 pm

Call to Order by Abdouramane Bila-Chair person. Board members present: Darice Baxter, Kevin McGrane, Doris Vaske, Guy Goldsmith-Parks Director, Mike Wolfe-Stormwater Coordinator, Brian Hamer-Arborist

Approval of Minutes for January 2022 meeting. Motion by Doris Vaske, second by Kevin McGrane. Motion carried

Abdouramane Bila opened the floor for Public Comment with no public comments to address.

Abdouramane Bila discussed board member terms of Michael Burril and Darice Baxter expiring June 30. Encouraged to reapply should they wish to continue to serve on the board.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update that the MidAmerican *Trees Please Grant* 2022 was received. The \$1,000 would be used to plant trees at West Lakes. The plan is to fill in between the trees that had been planted previously.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update on that the Tree City USA designation and has been awarded for 2021 and is the 26th year of being awarded this designation.

Guy Goldsmith discussed Muddy Creek clean-up that was held April 9. Good turn out from Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Board and Council members. About 2 truckloads of litter was removed. Abdouramane Bila offered a special thanks to the scouts for their help.

Guy Goldsmith provides update that North Liberty will celebrate Arbor Day on April 29th. The proclamation will be signed at the next council meeting. This is done annually and is a requirement for the Tree City designation.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update on a new position for the Parks department of a certified arborist that has been filled by Brian Hamer who is present. He has been with the Parks department for 18 years and his position on the parks department has also been filled. Brian will be tasked with caring for the significant number of trees and plantings in North Liberty.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update on Emerald Ash Borer that has a significant presence in North Liberty. City owned trees have been treated annually for the past few years. The treatments have been updated over time to the most effective and safest products available. Abdouramane Bila questions the number of Ash trees noted on the tree survey and how many trees have been impacted. Brian Hamer offers that only two city trees were lost last year given the effective treatments.

Mike Wolfe provided an update on the receipt of a grant from the Iowa DNR totaling \$125,000 in two separate phases. The first was from Your Best Lawn to promote soil quality restoration. The second was from Love Your Water which will provide T-shirts, sweatshirts, coffee mugs, etc. to have available at home shows and other events to offer to people who come to discuss stormwater practices and city programs available to improve stormwater management.

Mike Wolfe reminds the public of the ordinance to avoid mowing grass onto the streets. The excess grass makes its way into the storm sewer and causes algae blooms in local waters. You may receive a

door hanger notification should you be found to have blown clippings onto the street. Excess fertilizer on lawns and dog waste also contribute to the algae blooms.

Mike Wolfe discussed that storm water drains need to be marked and there will be opportunities for the community to help replace/repair these. Mike will have the markers available as well as safety vests for anyone who wants to participate.

Mike Wolfe also mentions there will be a continuation of the storm water intake painting that has occurred throughout the city. Mike states that there have been numerous applications and designs and he hopes that these will be able to move forward. Abdouramane Bila questions if rain barrels are still available and Mike Wolfe answers in the affirmative that 50% cost share is still available as funding allows.

Doris Vaske asks Mike Wolfe for clarification on the two phases of the DNR grant. Mike Wolfe clarifies that the funds will be used more for education than for the actual storm water projects.

Abdouramane Bila questions if MidAmerican will be having a tree sale as they have in the past. Guy Goldsmith states that he has not heard of any near North Liberty and this event often rotates locations.

Abdouramane Bila opens the floor to old business with none to address.

Abdouramane Bila opened the floor for New Business with none to address.

Next Meeting date: July 13th, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Motion to adjourn by Kevin McGrane, second by Doris Vaske. Motion carried