

Minutes from North Liberty Tree and Storm Water Advisory Board Meeting

October 12, 2022, 7:00 pm

Call to Order by Abdouramane Bila-Chair person. Board members present: Darice Baxter, Kevin McGrane, and Michael Burrill. Guy Goldsmith-Parks Director, Mike Wolfe-Stormwater Coordinator

Approval of Minutes for July 2022 meeting. Motion by Michael Burrill, second by Kevin McGrane. Motion carried

Abdouramane Bila opened the floor for Public Comment. Guy states that he has received numerous questions/concerns regarding the Emerald Ash Borer which is an item on the agenda.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update on Tree City USA report for 2022 which will be due. This will be a report of money spent on trees and tree care in the community in 2021 in order to receive the Tree City USA designation.

Guy Goldsmith has not yet received a timeline for the MidAmerican *Trees Please Grant* application for the upcoming year but this is usually due toward the end of December.

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 provided an update on the Iowa DNR Community Forestry Program which provided \$9,800 to the city of North Liberty to use for tree planting. This included the trees planted for the community tree planting and workshop which was held at Fox Run Park and Pond on September 24th. Kevin McGrane expressed gratitude for the event and the helpful information it offers regarding how to select and plant trees. Guy states that the grant was 50% state funded for the derecho recovery and the other 50% was through federal funding for the Emerald Ash Borer. There will another round of funding which will be allocated based on prior grants received.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update on Emerald Ash Borer that has a significant presence in North Liberty. There are many trees which will need to be removed for safety. Abdouramane Bila asks whether this includes the city owned trees have been treated annually for the past few years, to which Guy Goldsmith answers in the affirmative. The city will continue use maximum treatments on the trees which are still deemed salvageable.

Guy Goldsmith states that he and city staff are in the beginning stages of looking into a program which could provide financial assistance to members of the community needing to remove an affected Ash trees as they can become a safety hazard. This program would be formatted similarly to stormwater grants which have been available for several years to improve water quality.

Abdouramane Bila asks Guy Goldsmith if the trees planted last year with the Trees Please Grant are still monitored/watered. Guy states that all trees planted are put on a 5 year schedule of watering and care in an effort to keep them alive and well which by and large has been effective.

Kevin McGrane asks Guy Goldsmith how the tree plantings will allocated in the future since there is such a large impact for the Emerald Ash Borer throughout the city. Guy offers that the city will continue to look into any grants that become available in an effort to replace as many trees as possible for those that need to be removed.

Mike Wolfe discussed that the GIS data collection should be completed in the next 3-4 weeks. They have been working to mark storm water infrastructure.

Mike Wolfe states that he was working on the annual storm water report which generally takes about 3-4 weeks to completed and sent to the DNR.

Mike Wolfe states that curbside leaf collection will be starting soon and reminds people to put the leaves between the sidewalk and the street, but not in the street itself.

Guy Goldsmith asks Mike Wolfe if there are still funds available to paint the storm water drains which has been done in the past, to which Mike Wolfe answers in the affirmative. Guy also asks if some of the drains painted in the past will be touched up. Mike Wolfe states that the paint will likely have to be removed and painted anew as touching up would be difficult.

Abdouramane Bila asks if now is a good time to apply for soil quality restoration. Mike Wolfe answers that any time of the year is a good time to apply in order to obtain funding and the scheduling can then be done as weather allows.

Guy Goldsmith offers update that on October 21st the DNR will stock the Liberty Centre Pond with 1000-2000 trout. This is done twice a year.

Michael Burrill asks Mike Wolfe why the sewer drains which are found by GIS to be too low need to be raised. Mike Wolfe answers that they need to be raised in order to provide timely access.

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: January 11th, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Motion to adjourn by Michael Burrill, second by Kevin McGrane. Motion carried