

Marshalltown Tree Forever Branching Out Committee

Meeting, November 19, 2015

Members present: Gary Fulton, Gary Mason, Doni Sheldon Mel Dostal, Terry Gray and Janey Swartz

Minutes were approved from the October meeting.

Joann Neven was contacted about tree selection and location for a memorial tree for Gene Neven. Kiwanis Park was selected and a list of appropriate trees will be sent to Joann for her to choose from. Gene was a long time member of this group.

Note: This Trees Forever Group has met since 1991.

Terry explained the city's bookkeeping process and gave Gary F the city's budget for Trees Forever. The current balance is \$3,305.88.

In January, solicitation letters will be sent out to businesses and organizations for matching funds for the spring tree planting grant from Trees Forever. Gary M will get letters ready in December before he retires. Bids for the trees will go out when word is received that we have received the grant.

Gary F was contacted by Sue Ashton of the Garden Club about applying for a grant for 100 trees through Trees Forever. Gary suggested that the Garden Club join us in the planting of trees from our grant that we hopefully will receive. She thought that sounded like a good idea.

The proposed goals/objectives of this group were discussed.

Suggested goals:

A. Increase the tree canopy and species diversity in Marshalltown

Plant 25-35 trees in parks annually

- Strategies:
- a) Replace dead trees with new species
 - b) Apply for matching funds
 - c) Use mixture of large, medium and small trees

Increase number of terrace trees to a minimum of two per city block

- Strategies:
- a) Reduce or eliminate application fee for planting terrace trees
 - b) Work with (educate) city on importance of planting trees around town
 - c) Update city ordinance to make it easier for citizens to plant trees
 - d) Update appropriate tree list annually

Encourage citizens to plant trees on private property

- Strategies:
- a) Public forums on tree planting and care NOTE: A forum/workshop was set up by Terry for either February 27 or March 5 at the library, as possible dates. Waiting on confirmation with Joe Herring.

B. Educate the public on value of trees and proper planting and maintenance

Sponsor two public forums/workshops annually

- a) Tree maintenance and pruning
- b) Involve local nurseries
- c) Educate public on the value of trees, monetarily and environmentally

Next meeting is December 10 at 4:30.