

1. No Agenda

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2. Supporting Meeting Documents

Documents:

[MINUTES.PDF](#)

Trees Forever Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2015, the meeting commenced at 4:30 pm, at the 2nd Floor Conference Room, 10 West State Street in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Present: Gary Fulton, Terry Gray, Gary Mason, Ray Mitchem and Doni Sheldon.

Minutes of the August 26, 2015, were presented and approved with one correction. The financial report was reviewed showing a balance of \$3304.31 in the Trees Forever project fund. Terry explained that the balance in the Trees Forever account has accumulated through excess donations, but mostly through donations received from Alliant Energy when terrace trees have been allowed to be removed by them because of line interference. Also, last year's Trees Forever/Branching Out grant application was fully funded so the city did not need to provide matching funds, something that is usually required.

Clarification was made concerning the Trees Forever organization and the Branching Out program, which is an arm of Trees Forever funded by Alliant Energy to provide grant opportunities. A Branching Out grant application for 2016 spring planting, which is due November 1, will be submitted for the planting of trees in public parks. Gary Mason submitted a preliminary planting plan, without specific locations within each of the four parks, that includes Riverview (9 trees), Kiwanis (10 trees), Timber Creek (7 trees) and Bicentennial (6 trees) for a total of 32 trees and 10 different species.

Two other planting locations and means were presented. One would be Goldfinch Park, the terrace area of Merle Hibbs Blvd., south side, between 6th and 2nd Streets. Terry will check on underground utilities to determine the feasibility. There is a location at Riverview that is being used for soccer. The group(s) using that area have encroached on the private residence on the west side and have continued to litter excessively. Trees there would provide more a buffer and discourage that area for play. There are a few trees in the Riverview nursery that could be moved to that location. Gary Mason will check on available trees. The group believes funds in the account could be used for that purpose.

The Sustainable Urban Forestry Training and Assistance Grant (SUFTA) requires the city to solicit business for support of tree planting and maintenance. Terry presented the letter that has been sent to several businesses to date. The Iowa DNR publication *Community Benefits from Public Trees in Iowa* was included with the letter. The letter also states that we will be in contact with them again in the coming months. The Trees Forever/Branching Out committee has typically solicited funds for the annual tree planting.

The SUFTA grant requires a review of the city's terrace tree ordinance and that the city set a canopy goal. Terry provided a copy of the City's current tree ordinance. Suggestions were made as to changes to make to the prohibited and recommended tree list. Gary Mason will discuss further with Bob Hibbs. The group suggested that the

\$25.00 fee be eliminated and an education piece be added to the tree ordinance document which is used for distribution. A plan will need to be created to encourage planting and present to the city council.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15 at 4:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.