

Tree Board Meeting – June 21, 2018

Laurel City Hall

Attending: Matt Wheeler, Kurt Markegard, Fran Schweigert, Dale Ahrens, Phyllis Bromgard, Richard Herr, Karen Courtney – city code enforcer

Arbor Day 2018: Tentatively Tuesday, May 7th – South Pond

- Fran suggested we revisit the 3 year plan that Aaron laid out and replace the trees that will be removed this summer.
- We currently have \$1200 in our account. This should mean that the city tree money could be used for replacement trees.
- Matt said the metal signs from Pacific Recycling have been delivered and will be installed once the rebar is attached.
- Kurt asked that everyone turn in their hours for the year to date.
- Dale said the new principal at Graff – Lynn Peterson should be included on emails

Dead trees:

- Fran suggested there be a plan to replace trees all over the city
- Murray (2016 Arbor Day) tree is dying, Fireman's Park and Veteran's park all have dead trees that may or may not need to be replaced.
- Fran would like direction is what type of tree would work well in certain locations. In August, we should those site should be visited so the planting can happen in the Fall.

Vandalism:

- Once school was out, vandals did a lot of damage to the South Pond gazebo
- Carol Weldon started a Facebook campaign to get something done. Volunteer workers, donors, and city staff worked to clean off the paint
- A camera system needs to be installed (it works at Kiwanis Park) to monitor the area 24 hours – cost is \$2,000 – we should be looking for a donor.
- Phyllis indicated the Lions Club would be interested in donating

Enforcement of tree care:

- Karen Courtney would like to change the city code. Currently it says that the Tree Board will notify homeowners by letter when they have problem trees that need attention. This takes time and she would like to address these issues more timely. We will keep this item on the agenda.
- Karen has two issues she mentioned that require immediate attention. Both are dealing with private trees on private property. A pine tree at 516 Pennsylvania needs to be removed. She is drafting a letter for our board to sign so this can be moved along. She also asked that we contact an owner at 507 East 5th about trees overhanging on her property. LuAnne said she would do that.

- It was moved, seconded and approved that we would agree to approve a letter to the owner of the tree on Pennsylvania.
- LuAnne asked if it was OK for her to arrange to have the boulevard trees trimmed before the 4th of July. This is mostly to remove suckers. Matt approved.

Matt Lurker – new CAO of Laurel addressed the board

- Matt has a varied background in law enforcement, government medical and contract work. He and his wife have 6 children, 2 grandkids and currently live in Billings. He is excited to work with the city and take on the many roles the position requires. We welcome Matt to Laurel.

There will NOT be a July meeting. Next meeting is August 16th 9:30 at city hall

Adjourned 10:45

LuAnne Engh

Agenda for August:

- Arbor Day 2019
- Replacement trees/trimming/maintenance
- Grants – NWE DNRC
- City Tree Enforcement code changes
- Other