

**MAPLE GROVE
ARBOR COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2015
MAPLE GROVE GOVERNMENT CENTER
7:00 PM**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Arbor Committee was called to order by Chairperson Mary Parenteau at 7:00 pm.

Members Present

Mary Parenteau, Julie Gamber, Joe Hogeboom, Ed Reichow , Frank Kampel, Marilyn Arnlund, Mary Lynn Kenknight , Steve Courtney, Rory Howell

Members Absent

Terri Polski, Adam Bedard

Also Present

Kelly Matzke - Staff Representative

Approval of Agenda
and Minutes

Chair Parenteau asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. Hearing none, Steve Courtney made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Arnlund and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chair Parenteau asked if there were any revisions to the October 8, 2015 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Julie Gamber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Frank Kampel and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

New Business

Kiddiegarten Landscape Plan

Kelly Matzke introduced this item by stating that a child care center is proposed at the southeast corner of County Road 30 and Garland Lane. Matzke stated that the proposed Landscape Plan for the project does satisfy the total number of tree requirements, but that it exceeds the total allotted percentage of a single species of tree.

Ed Reichow asked whether or not the applicant identified which particular species of arborvitae is being proposed. Matzke stated that the species of arborvitae is not identified, but it appears that the arborvitaes are being classified as a shrub for this project rather than a tree.

Frank Kampel stated that the notes on the Landscape Plan are confusing, and seem to contradict what is being shown on the Plan itself. Kelly Matzke stated that he will ask for the developer to clarify the notes and resubmit the Plan.

Mary Lynn Kenknight mentioned that, because the proposed development site is typically a dry area, perhaps the developer should consider including a species other than maple. Marilyn Arnlund concurred, and also stated that it would be advisable that the developer consider more evenly dispersing the proposed trees throughout the entire site, particularly in the area adjacent to the proposed playground.

Kelly Matzke will provide feedback to the developer that the plan appears to be incomplete, and a resubmittal will be required that incorporates the following:

1. No more than 20% of any one type of species of tree.
2. Consistency between what is shown on the Landscape Plan and what is listed in the Plan's notes.
3. Consideration of replacing maple trees with a different species of tree.
4. Consideration of dispersing trees more evenly throughout the site, including the addition of trees to the proposed playground area.

The Arbor Committee will review and recommend approval for a revised Landscape Plan at its next meeting.

The Village at Arbor Lakes Landscape Plan

Kelly Matzke introduced this item by stating that the Village at Arbor Lakes is a proposed phased mixed-use development that will be located at the northeast corner of Elm Creek Boulevard and Hemlock Lane. The first phase of the development includes a luxury apartment building which will be located on the north end of the site. Subsequent phases will include additional apartment buildings, connected by tunnelways, as well as mixed use commercial to the south.

The developer is required to plant 73 over-story trees for this development. The Landscape Plan indicates that 74 over-story trees are being proposed. Marilyn Arnlund stated that there is a good mix of proposed trees indicated on the Plan.

Mary Lynn Kenknight asked whether or not the Committee felt that too many Dakota Birch trees are being proposed. Ed Reichow stated that Dakota Birch trees are typically planted in narrow areas for ornamental purposes, and that he is unaware of any disease that threatens the tree.

Frank Kampel stated that he would like to see a proposed planting plan for the swimming pool area. The trees in that area are not identified on the Landscape Plan. Kelly Matzke stated that he has requested that the developer provide more specific information about that area for the Arbor Committee to review at its next meeting.

Old Business

EAB Management Plan Update

Kelly Matzke introduced this item by stating that the City is forming a staff taskforce to address ash tree mitigation in anticipation of the onset of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. The taskforce is currently comprised of Matzke, Marilyn Arnlund and leadership from the Public Works Department. The Parks and Recreation Department has been invited to participate as well.

Member Arnlund went on to discuss possible best management practices that could be incorporated into a city-wide EAD response plan. Arnlund explained that lessons can be learned from the eastern United States, which has already been impacted by EAB. Arnlund stated that the Public Works Department has entered Tree Inventory data into its Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database. Going forward, when a public tree is removed, it can be removed from the database. Conversely, when a new public tree is planted, it can be added to the database.

Marilyn Arnlund stated that the GIS database divides the City into 96 zones, or "neighborhoods". One thought that came up at the staff meeting was that if an EAB-infected ash tree is discovered, all public ash trees in that neighborhood would be removed.

Mary Lynn Kenknight asked whether or not private trees would be included in this plan. Arnlund stated that the City currently has a requirement that diseased or hazardous private trees must be removed. Theoretically, this would also apply to ash trees infested with EAB. Arnlund stated that she would like to find a way to document public and private EAB-infested ash trees that are being treated by homeowners.

Mary Lynn Kenknight queried who is ultimately responsible for tree health in Maple Grove since there is no City Forester. Marilyn Arnlund stated that, per City Code, the City Administrator is technically also the City Forester, and that he or she typically allocates those duties to other

staff. Kenknight stated the importance of having a dedicated City Forester for an undertaking of this size.

Marilyn Arnlund discussed how EAB diseased trees need to be removed during winter months, while the insect lies dormant. Kelly Matzke stated that there may be a staffing issue with removing trees in the winter. Arnlund reiterated the importance of contracting with a tree removal company early so that the service is available when the infestation reaches Maple Grove.

Chair Parenteau stated that she would like the staff group to continue to meet more frequently because of the magnitude of the issue, and the fact that EAB has already been discovered in neighboring Plymouth. Chair Parenteau stated the importance of early education for our residents.

Mary Lynn Kenknight stated that the City of Minneapolis has been identifying ash trees with a banner, and that perhaps we could consider something similar in Maple Grove. The Committee concurred that more information about EAB needs to be listed either on the City's website or on a social media account, such as Facebook.

Mary Lynn Kenknight stated that, as part of the City's EAB mitigation practices, consideration needs to be given to replacing removed ash trees with other species. Chair Parenteau stated that she would like to distribute educational material in utility bills.

Mary Lynn Kenknight stated that Minnesota is providing a thorough and effective response to EAB infestation, and therefore, infestation in Minnesota has spread far less quickly than it has in other states. Kenknight stated that the county-by-county quarantine of firewood transportation method is very effective in limiting EAB's advance. Members Kenknight and Arnlund stated that transportation of firewood containing EAB larvae is the most prevalent form of advancing the parasite's spread to other areas. Kenknight reminded the Committee that Hennepin County, Ramsey County and Anoka County are currently under firewood transportation quarantines.

Buckthorn Removal Event

Kelly Matzke stated that the November 7, 2015 Buckthorn Removal Event at the City's Forest Preservation Area on Vicksburg Lane went very well. Matzke has notified the Street Department that the wood is ready to be burned, if weather permits this winter.

Kelly Matzke recommends that next year, the removal occur near the parking area/ trail head and work its way up the trail.

Area Reports

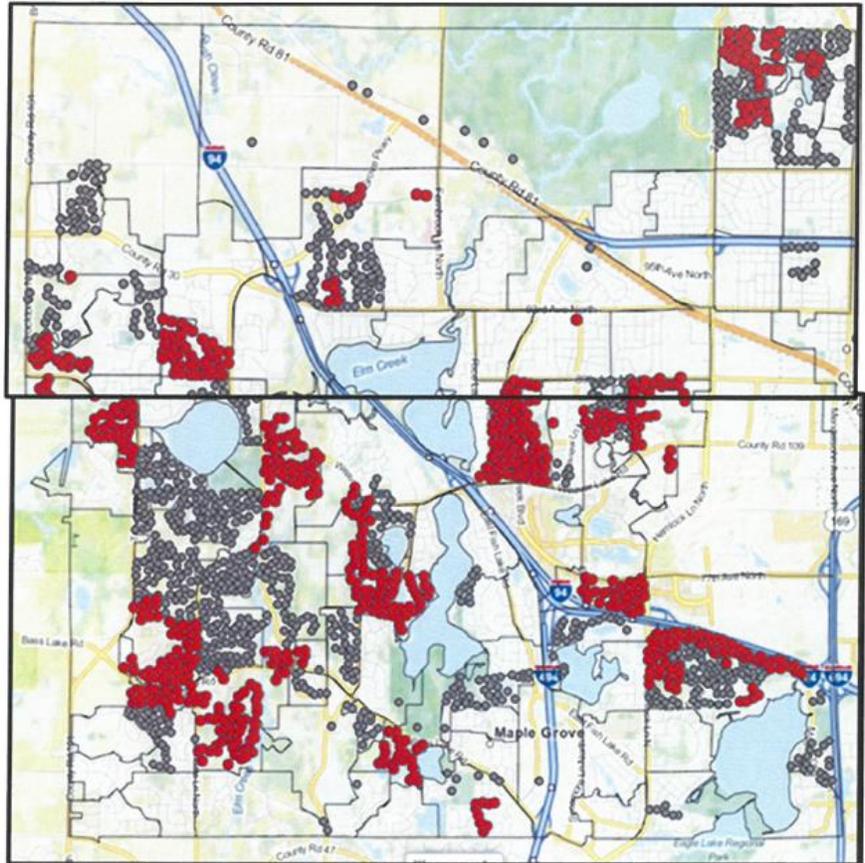
There were no Area Reports to discuss. Kelly Matzke provided an update on other issues that had previously been discussed by the Committee. Matzke spoke with the Public Works Department concerning the removal of wild parsnip and a tree impacted by oak wilt disease near the Bass Lake Road/Elm Creek area. In the spring, when the plants are better identifiable, the City will pursue removal.

Kelly Matzke stated that Eastern Wahoo has been removed from the "recommended tree list". Matzke also stated that the maple tree mentioned by Michelle Burkes at the last meeting in the Boundary Creek neighborhood has been removed.

Matzke stated that he is waiting to hear back from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) concerning the I-94 Interchange Planting program. Matzke hopes to have more information to report at the next meeting.

Mary Lynn Kenknight requested that more buckthorn removal doobers be used at next year's Buckthorn Removal Event.

Marilyn Arnlund distributed the map below that shows where the Tree Inventory public trees have so far been identified. Arnlund stated that she would like to redirect the attention of the program volunteers to the older neighborhoods to the northeast as well as around West Fish Lake Road, since that is where there are the highest concentration of ash trees. The Committee thanked Arnlund for all of her diligent work in creating and managing this large program.



Maple Grove is 35 square miles or 22,428 acres.
The parks and trails take up approximately 3,341 acres.
The gravel mining area is approximately 2000 acres.
Maple Grove has seven lakes which is approximately 1,494 acres.
There is also lots of farming land and undeveloped land that I don't have the # of acres for...but if you take out the parks, trails, gravel mining area, and lakes there is ~15,593 acres of land.
If you look at the finished zones only...we have inventoried ~485 acres! That leaves about 15,108 acres to inventory.
I cut and pasted a picture of GIS Cloud with the gray dots which represent 2013 and 2014 trees inventoried and the red dots which represent this year (2015). The map is two pieces and is not perfect but it gives you a good picture of what is been done. Thanks, Marilyn ☺

Adjournment

Steve Courtney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm. The motion was seconded by Julie Gamber and passed unanimously on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Hogeboom, Secretary
City of Maple Grove Arbor Committee
November 13, 2015