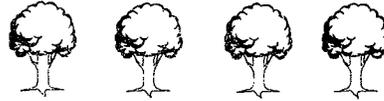


MAPLE GROVE
ARBOR COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2015
7:00 PM – ROOM 183
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM



1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES
 - A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 REGULAR MEETING
3. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. EMERALD ASH BORER DISCUSSION
 - B. FINALIZE BUCKTHORN EVENT
4. AREA REPORTS
5. ADJOURNMENT



REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Item Number: 2 A & B

Meeting Date: October 8, 2015
Agenda Heading: Approval of Agenda and Minutes
Agenda Item: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Recommended Committee Action:

Call by Vice-Chairperson _____ for any additions or revisions to the agenda.

Motion by Committee member _____, seconded by Committee member _____ to approve as proposed or approve as amended the agenda for the October 8, 2015 regular meeting.

Motion by Committee member _____, seconded by Committee member _____ to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015 regular meeting as presented or as amended.

Discussion:

Committee Comments:

**MAPLE GROVE
ARBOR COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
September 10, 2015
MAPLE GROVE GOVERNMENT CENTER
8:00 PM**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Arbor Committee was called to order by Chairperson Mary Parenteau at 8:00 pm, noting the amended meeting start time is due to accommodating the earlier ribbon cutting ceremony at Central Park of Maple Grove.

Members Present

Mary Parenteau, Julie Gamber, Joe Hogeboom, Ed Reichow , Frank Kampel, Marilyn Arnlund, Terri Polski, Mary Lynn Kenknight , Adam Bedard

Members Absent

Steve Courtney, Rory Howell

Also Present

Judy Hanson - City Council Liaison, Kelly Matzke - Staff Representative

Approval of Agenda
and Minutes

Chair Parenteau asked if there were any additions or revisions to the agenda. Mary Lynn Kenknight requested that "Invasive Species Eradication Program" be added as item 3B. Hearing no more requests for additions or revisions, Julie Gamber made a motion to approve the agenda as with the additional item. The motion was seconded by Frank Kampel and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chair Parenteau asked if there were any revisions to the August 13, 2015 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Frank Kampel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Arnlund and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Introduction of City Council Liaison Judy Hanson

Newly appointed City Council Member Judy Hanson introduced herself to the Arbor Committee and stated that she has been assigned as the new City Council Liaison for the group, replacing Council Member Johnson. City Council Member Hanson stated that she has been involved in various committees with the City of Maple Grove since the

early 1990's, and is very passionate about wetlands and the environment. Council Member Hanson said that she looks forward to working with the Arbor Committee.

New Business

Emerald Ash Borer Protocol

Staff Liaison 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. Member Arnlund presented a portfolio of information that she had obtained from other metropolitan communities in regards to EAB response best management practices. Member Arnlund stated that while there is currently no EAB mitigation plan in place in Maple Grove, city staff does investigate complaints from residents regarding potential infestations. So far, complaints received have not been substantiated to prove EAB infestation.

Member Arnlund went on to discuss possible best management practices that could be incorporated into a city-wide EAB response plan. Arnlund explained that lessons can be learned from the eastern United States, which has already been impacted by EAB. In addition, Arnlund referenced the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Shoreview, which are currently finding infested ash trees and have implemented response plans.

Member Arnlund discussed a specific testing method for EAB, known as "trap trees" which involves marking and tracking certain ash trees with the assistance of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Arnlund stated that before any such plan could take place, the inventory of public ash trees in Maple Grove should be substantially complete. Arnlund stated that the Boulevard and Front Yard Tree Inventory project is approximately 1/3 complete. At this point in the program, volunteers have already documented approximately 11,000 public ash trees.

Member Kampel stated that in addition to boulevard ash trees, inventory should also be taken in City parklands. Kampel asked if staff could approach the City Park and Recreation Department to discuss implementation of an ash tree inventory program. Chair Parenteau stated that this may also be an opportunity for the Arbor Committee to partner with the Park and Recreation Board.

Member Reichow stated that more education is needed for the public in order to properly identify ash trees, and then to properly identify signs of infestation. Member Kenknight stated that articles could be published on the City website, in the City newsletter, and in the Maple Grove Magazine to promote EAB education.

Member 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.

Staff Liaison Matzke stated that he is in the process of creating a steering committee of necessary city staff members who will create an EAB response plan. Member Kampel suggested that staff immediately begin to consider the need to hire contractors to remove ash trees, so that when EAB enters Maple Grove, we will have the capability to remove large numbers of trees.

Member Polski asked why the City of Maple Grove does not have a City Forester. Chair Parenteau stated that the Arbor Committee had recommended to the City Council in the past to create a City Forester position. City Council Member Hanson stated that the Council is already reviewing the 2016 municipal budget, and it is likely too late in the process to make this type of recommendation; however, the Arbor Committee could recommend that the City Council consider creating the City Forester position in 2017.

The Committee concurred that the current "Shade Tree Disease and Pests" ordinance is thorough and will address many of the issues associated with EAB. Staff Liaison Matzke will report back to the Committee once the EAB mitigation staff group has convened.

Invasive Species Eradication Program

Member Kenknight introduced this item and reminded the group that earlier in 2015 the Committee had discussed coordinating neighborhood groups that could be formed to remove invasive plant species on a local level.

Member Gamber stated that perhaps the proposed program be expanded so that corporate volunteers could also participate. Kenknight agreed, and cited the Boston Scientific garlic mustard pull event as an example of corporate participation.

Member Arnlund stated that three people have already come to City Hall requesting more information about this type of program. Kenknight clarified that the Arbor Committee's role would not be to remove plant material for neighborhoods, but rather to train neighborhood

volunteers to identify and properly remove material themselves. Kenknight emphasized the importance of organizing the groups, stating that the noxious and dangerous weed, wild parsnip, has already been found in the vicinity of Bass Lake Road and Elm Creek.

Member Kenknight offered to draft articles about this program that could be published in the Maple Grove Magazine, the City newsletter and on the City website. Chair Parenteau stated that education and awareness will be the most important factors in this program. City Council Member Hanson stated that placing information on the City's website front page banner will be an effective way to spread the message.

Chair Parenteau suggested the name of the program include the words, "Neighborhood Invasive Plant" or something similar. The Committee agreed to continue to think of enhancements to the program name and will continue the discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Old Business

Update on MN/DOT Right of Way City Project

Staff Liaison Matzke reported that the Arbor Committee's recommendation to partner with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT) to develop plantings in the freeway right-of-way at select I-94 intersections went to the City Council on Tuesday, September 3. The City Council agreed to partner with MN/DOT for this program.

Staff Liaison Matzke met with MN/DOT officials to obtain more information about the program. Matzke reported that MN/DOT will provide landscape design services as well as planting services. The role of the City will be to advise what plantings we would like to have, and where we would like the plantings to be located. Matzke said that MN/DOT officials ask that the City consider leaving adequate space for snow storage areas, as well as not interfering with business sign visibility when planning for the project.

Staff Liaison Matzke stated that MN/DOT will provide \$25,000 for the project at the intersection of I-94 and Hemlock Lane/CSAH 61 in 2016, and \$25,000 for the project at the intersection of I-94 and Maple Grove Parkway in 2017. Matzke stated that if there are additional funds available, the next priority would be the intersection of I-94 and Weaver Lake Road/CSAH 109.

Member Kenknight distributed a handout from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture entitled, "Pollinator Best Management Practices for Roadsides and Other Rights-Of-Way" (2013). Chair

Arbor Committee Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2015

Parenteau stated that the members should use the handout and other resources when considering MN/DOT's plans. Matzke stated that plans should be available for review at the next Arbor Committee meeting.

Vicksburg Lane Adopt-a-Street Complete

Chair Parenteau and Staff Liaison Matzke thanked members who participated in the successful cleanup of Vicksburg Lane, between Bass Lake Road and the City of Plymouth border, on August 27, 2015.

Area Reports

Member Gamber reported that the recently installed flashing yellow turn lights along Hemlock Lane/CSAH 61, south of I-94, are working very well and seem to help the flow of traffic.

Adjournment

Member Polski made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 pm. The motion was seconded by Member Gamber and passed unanimously on voice vote.

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

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Item Number: 3A



Meeting Date: October 8, 2015
Agenda Heading: Old Business
Agenda Item: EAB Discussion

Recommended Committee Action:

None.

Discussion:

EAB was recently discovered in Plymouth, and Prior Lake announced that EAB was found in an ash tree on private property. According to foresters, it is just a matter of time before EAB is found in Maple Grove. City staff is currently meeting with other cities that have been affected by EAB to discuss how to handle the infestation. Please bring any questions, comments, or concerns to the meeting for discussion.

Committee Comments:

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Item Number: 3B



Meeting Date: October 8, 2015
Agenda Heading: Old Business
Agenda Item: Buckthorn Event (Finalize)

Recommended Committee Action:

Finalize buckthorn event.

Discussion:

This year's buckthorn event is set for Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Forest Preservation area off of Vicksburg Lane.

Officer Dominic Wareham, who oversees the Capable Partners Hunting Program, has assured City staff that the Arbor Committee volunteers will not be in any danger of hunters when removing buckthorn. City staff will send a reminder to Officer Wareham as the date gets closer.

Arbor Committee Staff should determine a meeting place, who is bringing what, confirm time, etc., as this will be the last meeting before the buckthorn event takes place.

Committee Comments:

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

Item Number: 4



Meeting Date: October 8, 2015

Agenda Heading: Area Reports

Agenda Item: Area Reports

Recommended Committee Action:

None.

Discussion:

The Area Reports section of the agenda provides an opportunity for any Committee member to report any item in the City that needs staff attention. The issue will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member with a response provided at the next meeting.

Committee Comments: