

**MAPLE GROVE
ARBOR COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 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, Rory Howell, Marilyn Arnlund, Ed Reichow, and Mary Lynn Kenknight

Members Absent

Steve Courtney and Terri Polski

Also Present

Erik Johnson, City Council Member, Frank Kampel - Staff Representative, Adam Bedard - Citizen

Oath of Office

Frank Kampel administered the Oath of Office to Joe Hogeboom. Hogeboom will serve a complete new term on the Committee.

Election of Officers

Marilyn Arnlund made a motion to conduct the election of officers by an open vote. The motion was seconded by Joe Hogeboom and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Frank Kampel asked if there were any motions to appoint a Chairperson for the Committee. Ed Reichow made a motion to reappoint Mary Parenteau as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Arnlund and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Mary Parenteau asked if there were any motions to appoint a Vice Chairperson for the Committee. Joe Hogeboom made a motion to reappoint Julie Gamber as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Arnlund and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Mary Parenteau asked if there were any motions to appoint a Secretary for the Committee. Julie Gamber made a motion to reappoint Joe Hogeboom as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Arnlund and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

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Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Chair Parenteau asked if there were any revisions to the December 11, 2014 meeting minutes. Hearing none, Ed Reichow made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Julie Gamber and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

New Business

2015 Arbor Day Planning

Frank Kampel introduced this item, and reminded the Committee that the 2015 Arbor Day celebration will be held on Saturday, April 25 at the Maple Grove Community Center. The Arbor Committee had previously discussed that it would be preferable to have signage created that could be reused from year to year. It was also noted that the seminars in 2014 were not very well attended, and that there was low participation in the children's poster contest.

Mary Lynn Kenknight commented that the live tree display was very well done, and is a good feature for the event. Joe Hogeboom suggested that the tree display be done outside on the Community Center's balcony.

Ed Reichow asked the group if there was any feedback about the tree mulch display. Mary Parenteau suggested that the mulch be moved to an area by itself, so it can be the focal point of the display. Ed Reichow said he will continue to offer the display as long as the Committee feels that it is valuable.

Julie Gamber mentioned that the Arbor Day event has become more of a children-oriented event, and that adult-focused booths might get overlooked. Mary Lynn Kenknight suggested that she, personally, would likely only attend an event like this if she were bringing her children along.

Mary Parenteau questioned if Wright Hennepin Electric could provide seedlings of the types of trees that we are trying to promote in the City. Frank Kampel stated that it is unlikely that the City can request specific species of seedlings.

Marilyn Arnlund suggested that the Committee add a display area that could feature work that has been done as part of the City's tree inventory project. Arnlund mentioned that she owns a display board that would be

appropriate for the display, and is hoping that other members volunteer to help put the display together.

Mary Parenteau suggested adding a box on the tree raffle form that asks where participants heard about the Arbor Day event. This could help focus the group's marketing efforts. Frank Kampel offered to add the box to the form.

Mary Lynn Kenknight and Marilyn Arnlund suggested that the Committee include a beekeeping display. Kenknight suggested contacting the groups "Bees Knees" and "Bee Squad" for more information. Arnlund and Kenknight also suggested offering a "make your own bee house" display.

Marilyn Arnlund suggested giving out reusable bags to Arbor Day attendees. Arnlund and Frank Kampel will look into companies that produce bags to determine a cost estimate.

Mary Parenteau suggested that allowing groups to sell items at the event might help to increase attendance. Mary Lynn Kenknight mentioned that the local group entitled, "Buckthorn Busters" might be a good fit for the event, and that the group sells buckthorn-killing equipment. Kenknight is unsure of whether the group is a non-profit organization or for-profit business.

Mary Lynn Kenknight will contact the Yellow Tree Theatre in Osseo to see if the theatre would be willing to put on a display or do something related to trees at the event.

Mary Parenteau mentioned that the QR codes were not well received, and suggested not using them again in 2015. The Committee concurred with that.

In February, the Committee will ask Terri Polski if she is willing to coordinate the passbook scavenger hunt again for the 2015 event.

Joe Hogeboom will contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to see if they have children's handouts that can be given as prizes for the scavenger hunt.

The Committee concluded that the tree medallion booth is very popular and will be continued in 2015.

Frank Kampel will contact Barb Boulka, a local artist, and see if she is willing to participate in the 2015 event.

The Committee concluded that, due to low participation, the children's poster contest would be eliminated in 2015. In 2016, the Committee will consider adding a photo contest.

Marilyn Arnlund suggested that the Committee keep the buckthorn display, as it is very helpful in teaching the public to identify the plant.

The Committee concurred that it will seek to contract again with the Raptor Center in 2015, but it will hold off in contracting with the Reptile and Amphibian Zoo and the Splatter Sisters. The Committee discussed that the Splatter Sisters tended to get loud, and that it made conversation with event-goers difficult.

The Committee will discuss further event details at its February meeting.

Youngstedt's Car Wash

Frank Kampel introduced a landscape plan for the proposed Youngstedt's Car Wash, which will be located southeast of the Holiday Gas Station on Maple Grove Parkway and I-94. Kampel stated that the plan meets minimum requirements, with the exception of trees of one particular species, and asked the Arbor Committee to provide input on the plan.

Mary Parenteau suggested that, due to the fact that honey locust trees have very wide canopies when they are full grown, that the honey locust tree closest to the car wash entrance be moved further from the building.

There were no other comments on the landscape plan. Frank Kampel will provide feedback to the developer.

Area Reports

Frank Kampel stated that he received an email from a Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) employee who confirmed that fallen trees along Elm Creek, behind the I-94 Rest Area, have been removed.

Frank Kampel noted that the Public Works Department has been notified about the "blind child" sign on Nathan Lane and 101st Avenue and the "deaf child" sign on Willow Road, south of West Timber Lane. The Public Works Department is currently in the process of a city-wide sign replacement project, in which all signs are evaluated on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis. When the program reaches these two individual neighborhoods, the "blind child" and "deaf child" signs will be reevaluated to determine if they are still needed.

Frank Kampel noted that flashing pedestrian lights on Weaver Lake Road, near the vicinity of Weaver Lake Elementary School, have been fixed.

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Chair Parenteau asked whether or not the new sign on the Upsher-Smith building along I-494, south of East Fish Lake Road, meets the City's sign code requirements. Council Member Johnson stated that he will meet with the Community Development Director to discuss the sign and report back to the Arbor Committee.

Council Member Johnson stated that Opus Development Company has rescinded its proposal to develop the northeast corner of Hemlock Lane and Elm Creek Boulevard as part of the final phase of the Arbor Lakes project.

Citizen Adam Bedard stated that he has applied to be a member of the Arbor Committee, and hopes that the City considers him for appointment.

Adjournment

Joe Hogeboom made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Julie Gamber and passed unanimously on voice vote.

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