

**MAPLE GROVE ARBOR COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2022
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
7:00 PM**

- Call to Order** The regular meeting of the Arbor Committee was called to order by Mary Parenteau at 7:00 p.m.
- Members Present** Chair Mary Parenteau, Vice-Chair Frank Kampel, Sarah Picket, Julie Gamber, Don Varney, Marilyn Arnlund, Cody Lensing, Jake Wanek and Bob Henke.
- Members Absent** Steve Courtney and Mike Aasen.
- Also Present** Judy Hanson, City Council Liaison
Jesse Corrow, Staff Liaison
- Approval of Agenda** Move to approve by Sarah Picket, Second by Marilyn. Vote All ayes.
- Approval of Minutes** Following correction to text, Motion to approve by Frank Kampel, second Bob Henke to approve the amended minutes from February 10, 2022. Vote all ayes. Motion passed.
- Oath of Office** Councilmember Hanson administered the Oath of Office to Cody Lensing.
- Old Business**
- Parking Lot Subcommittee** Arnlund summarized that the sub-committee has continued to review the existing ordinance and discovered that several links to other documents were broken or connected to the wrong material.

Ordinance links need review and updating. Subcommittee members would like to meet with Community & Economic Development (CED) staff to discuss the parking lot tree planting ordinance draft and advise on how our recommendation can best be incorporated into new parking lot ordinance language. Particularly to ensure that new standards will be incorporated in a way that will provide options and allow flexibility in implementation. Use of more current tree planting standards will be the basis for the ordinance revisions and provide an incentivizing strategy and changes in parking lot designs that improve tree health, longevity and other benefits such as improved water quality and stormwater runoff mitigation.

Arnlund also suggested a Madison Wisconsin ordinance that requires a regular (utility) fee for tree services that covers urban forest tree costs, possibly including a city forester position could be a model for Maple Grove, along the lines of the new, soon to be implemented Maple Grove sewer utility fee. Council Member Hanson mentioned at a recent council meeting there was discussion of the poor condition of city trees that could possibly be improved by adding a City Forester position to City staff. City Engineer Ashfeld appeared to be interested in that idea. Joe Hogeboom is supportive of the hiring of a forester but one of the departments will have to include that position in a budget before the City Council and Mayor can consider it further. Budget Discussions should be under way soon.

Arnlund asked if Public Works should also be included in the parking lot ordinance revisions because it is likely to be closely tied to a City Forester position. There was not a clear recommendation for this but rather that it remains an option to consider.

Corrow reminded us that CED currently reviews landscape plans and conducts field inspections so they probably remain the appropriate department contact regarding this topic.

Arnlund asked how the proposed tree planting ordinance can be enforced. Council member Hanson clarified that enforcement can require penalties or fines and collecting these can be costly and even counterproductive. This is another reason that a staff forester might be a better means than relying only on an ordinance.

Varney asked about the process for the city to hiring a Forester. Council member Hanson explained that process would most likely begin in the CED as a forester position budget. Ordinance changes would also need to be acceptable to the CED particularly if the changes carried additional costs to implement or enforce.

Some discussion of the new city-wide increased storm sewer system fees followed. This led to a suggestion that a City Forester position could be funded by some sort of fee. This suggestion was not considered the best means to fund this type of position.

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant

Arbor Committee members Kampel, Aasen and Parenteau have been preparing an application for Environmental Conservation Partners (ECP) Legacy Grant. Application will be reviewed by CED Staff, before it is submitted to the DNR. Note that this Grant can provide up to \$50,000 and can be re-applied for annually.

The current grant application deadline of March 14 is not likely so application will be for the next available solicitation in May. This Grant requires a 10% match which can be "in kind". Grant funds, if awarded will be used to cover the costs for removing Buckthorn, Reed canary and Prickly ash in the southern portion of the Forest Preservation Area. The work will be completed by a contractor for removal services awarded through a competitive bidding process. The City has some money earmarked for buckthorn removal and is awaiting bid results and review before award. This expense could be used as the match for the ECP grant. The proposed treatment area map was provided and staff hopes to have

the bid details by the April 14 meeting. Treatment will take place in the fall.

2022 Arbor Day Event

Review of progress on Arbor Day assigned tasks.

Marilyn: One Master Gardner will be attending so far. Supplies have been purchased for the craft activities. Reminder to save and bring toilet paper tubes, decorations, ribbon, buttons- other items for the craft activities.

Frank: Has not received a response from Hennepin Technical College on whether they can have a representative attend.

Tote bags will be available for event.

Sarah: Updated the committee on recruiting volunteers.

Julie: Elm Creek Watershed representative will attend but needs some direction on what they should do. Cookies and refreshments will be based on 200-250 attendees. Cost can be reimbursed.

Bob: Hennepin County Composting will attend. There was no response from the wildlife rehabilitation representative. Bob's granddaughter has volunteered to wear the Emerald Ash Borer costume.

Cody: Has a printed list of resources from City of Maple Grove including; composting, yard waste, arboretum information, organics and mapping of the locations of these resources. Hennepin County may also send resources.

Don: Smokey Bear and Emerald Ash Borer have been reserved and will pick up before and drop off after the event. Will contact 3 rivers Parks and Eastman Nature Center. DNR invasive presentation may be paired with EAB display. Reminder that tree seedlings will need refrigeration.

Marilyn: will prepare tabletop display describing the Arbor Committee's role, responsibility and members.

New Business

None

Area Reports

Chair Parenteau reminded the committee that the Rotary Club buckthorn removal event is scheduled for April 21st at 4:30 in the Arboretum. They will need Arbor Committee members to help identify buckthorn and assist with removal methods.

Chair Parenteau shared the Growing Shade Project website and interactive tools.

The application for the Maple Grove Days parade has been submitted. Ed Reichow has agreed to allow use of trailer for parade.

Adjournment

Motion by Sarah Picket, second Frank Kampel to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Vote; all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Varney, Arbor Committee Member
City of Maple Grove Arbor Committee