

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:00pm
Meeting location: Roy R. Estle Memorial Library

Tree Board members present:

Gary Park, Chair
Larry Davis, Vice Chair
Greg Cagle, Secretary
Bob German, ex officio member
Andy Schmitz, ex officio member
Mary Werch, Liaison from Parks and Recreation

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public communications and concerns: None. No members of the public present.

Motion by Davis, second by Cagle to approve the minutes of the January 10th meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

The board reviewed and continued to refine the data on the list of trees we have planted over the past three years. We will work on getting GPS coordinates for all trees on the list, and ask Brian Slaughter to look into hiring Andy to trim trees in March.

Gary reported that he plans to submit a proposed Arbor Day proclamation to the city council this month, in preparation for our upcoming Arbor Day event on April 28th. (The official date for Arbor Day is Friday, April 27th, but we plan to celebrate on Saturday because more people are able to attend.) Andy is working on our Trees for Kids seedling program application and order. The application requirements are a little different this year, but we are hopeful that we will qualify and have a variety of trees to give away at the event.

The board discussed ideas for new tree plantings along Hatton Avenue to replace those that were removed for the Southwest Stormwater Drainage Improvement project. While our general preference would be to plant shade trees that would grow to be similar in size to those that were removed, that may not be possible due to the new power lines for street lights on the east side of the street. Possibilities being considered include Lilac, Redbud, Serviceberry and Columnar Oak.

Andy noted that there are a few particularly large and beneficial Ash trees in the right-of-way that would be nice to treat and save, if possible. Current data suggest that treatment is very effective. If the scope were limited to just a few trees, it might be affordable. The board agreed to consider the idea at a future meeting.

Mary reported that March 7th is Iowa Trees and Forests Day. This event is organized by Trees Forever, the Iowa Woodland Owners Association, the Iowa Urban Forestry Council, the Iowa Tree Farm Committee and others to educate our elected representatives at the state capitol about the importance of trees and advocate for increased funding for forest health, support for Iowa DNR forestry, and growing Iowa's tree canopy. The event runs from 7:30am to 1:30pm and is open to anyone.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 11th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 9th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.