

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at 6:30pm
Meeting location: Mound Park and Roy R. Estle Memorial Library

Tree Board members present:

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

Gary Park called the meeting to order in Mound Park at 6:30pm.

Andy Schmitz and Bob German planted a red oak tree at Mound Park across the street from 1707 Walnut Street, the home of Lynn Fox. The tree was donated by Lynn Fox in memory of her late husband, Jim Fox. The following people were present for the ceremony: Mike Buckalew, Greg Cagle, Shirlee Cagle, Tamara Cagle, Larry Davis, Chuck Fagen, Marsha Fagen, Bob German, Bob King, Gary Park, Andy Schmitz, Kate Sheets, Brian Slaughter, Mary Werch.

The meeting moved to the Roy R. Estle Memorial Library at 6:55pm.

Public communications and concerns: Brian Slaughter mentioned that the homeowner at 1300 Sycamore had expressed an interest in having a new tree planted in the right-of-way. The Tree Board will investigate the possibility after first determining whether a new tree would affect visibility for auto traffic at the curve in 13th Street.

Motion by Park, second by Davis to approve the minutes of the August 8th meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

Mary reported that the Trees Forever "Granting a Better Tomorrow!" program requires that the trees to be planted not be larger than 1.5 inch caliper. The Parks Board would prefer larger diameter trees for the Burnett Complex, so may not pursue a Trees Forever grant for that work. Both the Tree Board and Parks Board are looking for projects that would be attractive to Trees Forever.

Gary reported that Perennial Gardens has still not installed the new Pinnacle Birch at 1602 Sycamore that they had promised as a replacement for the columnar hackberry that died, and they have not been returning his calls or emails. We will recommend that city hall continue to hold payment of their invoice for the crabapple trees on Hatton until the Pinnacle Birch is installed.

Brian Slaughter plans to arrange for removal of the following 4 trees identified by the board as dead, dying or diseased: Maple at 601 15th St. (SW corner of 15th & Sycamore), Crabapple at 201 Kellogg Ave., Maple at 1400 Vine (facing 15th St., south of Middle School loading dock), and Locust on south side of Sugar Grove Ave., between 1506 Sugar Grove and the Raccoon River Valley Trail.

The board is also recommending removal of the following: Maple at 200 Kellogg Ave. (facing Laurel St.), Aspen at 201 15th St. (behind house, adjacent to the Raccoon River Valley Trail), and a stump at 206 14th St.

Regarding tree removals, the board reviewed the procedures it recommended in March 2017, which are as follows:

- (1) When the Tree Board identifies a tree that needs to be removed, it will mark a white "X" on the ground next to the tree.
- (2) The Director of Public Works will then inform the homeowner of the City's intent to remove the tree and the reason for it. If the Tree Board is interested in planting a replacement tree, this would also be a good time to inquire whether the homeowner is open to the idea and would be willing to care for it.
- (3) After communicating with the homeowner, the Director of Public Works will mark the tree with a red "X".
- (4) After selecting a contractor, the Director of Public Works will meet the contractor on site to show them the marked tree before any work is done. The contractor will be reminded to call the Director in case of any questions or uncertainty regarding the work to be done. This same procedure should be used if the city elects to have Public Works personnel do the work instead of hiring a contractor.

Larry will take care of marking the white X for the four trees currently scheduled for removal.

Greg will look into getting a quote for annual tree trimming service from J W Tree Service for the northwest quadrant of town.

Andy will look into what trees are currently available from Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs. We would like to plant approximately 10 trees in October, if possible.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, October 10th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
- Wednesday, November 14th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
- Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.