

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:00pm
Meeting location: Roy R. Estle Memorial Library

Tree Board members present:

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

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

Public communications and concerns: No members of the public present. Brian Slaughter reported that he had received one comment suggesting that our new trees include more evergreens.

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

Gary reported that Perennial Gardens has installed the new Pinnacle Birch at 1602 Sycamore, and the Spring 2018 planting paperwork has been closed out.

The board reviewed bid scopes and pricing for trimming and maintenance of right-of-way trees in the northwest quadrant of town from three contractors: Adel Tree Co. (\$7,782.00), J W Tree Service (\$12,500.00), and Walton Tree Service (\$5,010.00). Motion by Davis, second by Park to recommend that the Director of Public Works accept the proposal from Adel Tree Co. Motion passed 3-0.

Gary reported that the mayor has signed the Tree City USA application and that it will be submitted soon.

The board plans to apply for a Trees Forever grant and reviewed a potential project site at the southeast corner of 13th St. and Sycamore St. The application is due in the spring. The site could potentially have room for up to 8 trees, and the tentative plan is to install a mixture of Amur maackia and oak. Andy will check with Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs to see what oak trees they have available.

Greg noted that the city recently received a report from the Iowa Economic Development Authority that among other things recommended planting street trees in the downtown business district. That echoed previous recommendations made by the Iowa State University Community Design Lab in September 2018 and by the Confluence landscape architecture and consulting firm in August 2008. The board plans to research best practices to create favorable conditions for successfully growing healthy trees in the business district. Once we have that, we can put together a proposed plan and cost estimates for the city council to consider.

Dallas Center will be celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2019. One idea that has been suggested is selling or giving away trees to mark the occasion, similar to what the city did with redbud trees to mark the national bicentennial in 1976. The board intends to investigate this possibility. The trees might have a better chance of survival if the event was held in conjunction with Arbor Day instead of Fall Festival.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
Wednesday, February 6th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
Wednesday, March 13th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 10th, 2018 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.