

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7:00pm
Meeting location: Roy R. Estle Memorial Library

Tree Board members present:

Gary Park, Chair (via telephone)
Hannah Slaughter, Vice Chair
Greg Cagle, Secretary
Bob German, ex officio member
Andy Schmitz, ex officio member
Brian Slaughter, ex officio member
Mary Werch, Liaison from Parks and Recreation

Guests:

Michael Kidd, Mayor of Dallas Center

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

Public communications and concerns: Brian Slaughter forwarded an email from Matt Ostanik, the homeowner at 200 Kellogg Ave., expressing concern about a mostly dead maple tree in the right of way facing Laurel Street. Brian will work on arranging to have the tree removed, and the board will recommend some possibilities for replacement trees.

The damaged hackberry tree at 400 Percival Ave. was also discussed. The homeowner has requested that it not be removed. Due to concern that the tree may not be structurally sound, the board recommended that the Director of Public Works have the tree examined by a certified arborist. If the arborist determines that the tree poses a risk to pedestrian traffic, we will recommend removal.

The board continued its discussion of the potential project to plant trees in the 1400 block of Walnut Street. One major impetus for pursuing this project is the September 2018 report from the ISU Community Design Lab, which noted *“Very little vegetation lines the street reducing the potential for a more cohesive corridor identity on Walnut that could extend to the parks.”* The report recommended planting additional trees along Walnut from the 1400 block down to the entrance to Memorial Park to make the route more inviting and walkable, and to create a visual link between Mound Park and Memorial Park.

While a project of that scope is probably more than we can accomplish in a single year, it would be helpful to have a master plan for tree plantings and streetscape improvements on Walnut so that over time our projects will fit together harmoniously. The plan could also address recommendations in the 2019 Walkability Assessment Report that was sponsored by the Wellmark Healthy Hometown project. To achieve those goals, the board recommended that the Director of Public Works hire a landscape architect with experience in urban design to develop a unified design concept for the Walnut Street corridor, particularly including the 1400 block. The board will ask for referrals from local professionals and solicit bids from multiple firms.

Motion by Gary Park, second by Greg Cagle to approve the minutes of the July 10th and August 7th meetings. Motion passed 3-0.

For the fall planting project, Andy presented a proposal for 14 trees from Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs. Total installed cost would be \$2,966.00. The board recommended approval. Planting locations are still to be determined.

This year's tree maintenance project will be the northeast quadrant of town. The board will solicit proposals from multiple tree service companies.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, October 9th, 2019 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 6th, 2019 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.