

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:00pm
Meeting location: Roy R. Estle Memorial Library

Tree Board members present:

Gary Park, 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 7:04pm.

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

Motion by Gary Park, second by Greg Cagle to approve the minutes of the January 8th meeting.
Motion passed 2-0.

Gary provided a status report on the request for proposals for the streetscape design of the proposed Walnut Street green corridor. There are currently six companies that are considering making proposals, four of which have come in for meetings to discuss the project. Proposals are due by March 2nd.

The contractor for the tree trimming/maintenance project in the northeast quadrant of the city has indicated that the work will be done in March. Greg will submit a note for the March newsletter.

The parks board is planning to plant some new trees along the walking path at the Burnett Recreational Complex. Ideas for species and placement were discussed.

Andy has ordered 50 Wisconsin Red Hornbeam seedlings from Heritage Seedlings for the Arbor Day tree giveaway. We are also looking into getting seedlings from the Iowa DNR Forest Nursery.

For the last several years, we have generally left healthy ash trees in place and concentrated on removal of unhealthy trees of all species. While we haven't had a confirmed case yet of Emerald Ash Borer in Dallas Center, there have been increasing numbers of cases in neighboring communities. It is likely that there are affected trees in Dallas Center that haven't started showing symptoms yet, and we could potentially start seeing widespread ash tree decline in the next few years. Since we still have over 100 ash trees in our street right of ways and parks, the consensus of the board is that it is time to start prioritizing our activities to maximize the number of ash tree removals each year, even if the trees appear healthy. The intent is to avoid a scenario in which we have many dying ash trees at one time that would be cost prohibitive to remove in a single fiscal year.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, March 4th, 2020 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 15th, 2020 – Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.