

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:00pm

The Dallas Center Tree Board met in electronic meeting via conference call on November 18, 2020 at 7:00pm due to Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' November 10, 2020, updated Proclamation of Disaster Emergency, which among other matters, encouraged all vulnerable Iowans to limit their activities outside of their home including their participation in gatherings of any size and any purpose. The Governor further suspended state laws requiring a public meeting or hearing to the extent the laws could be interpreted to prevent a governmental body from limiting the number of people present for an in-person location of the meeting, providing the governmental body provides a means for the public to participate by telephone or electronically.

Tree Board members present for the electronic meeting:

Gary Park, Chair
Hannah Slaughter, Vice Chair
Greg Cagle, Secretary
Bob German, ex officio member
Andy Schmitz, ex officio member
Mary Werch, liaison from Parks and Recreation

Absent:

Brian Slaughter, ex officio member

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

Motion by Hannah Slaughter, second by Gary Park to approve the minutes of the October 14th meeting. Roll call all ayes, motion passed.

Gary represented the Tree Board in a walk through the Walnut Street corridor with other stakeholders. The next meeting of the group has not yet been scheduled. Gary sent the reports from the 2019 downtown soil borings to Nathan Gruver at ISG.

A discussion was held regarding the 2021-2022 budget. Due to the August derecho storm, we may have more tree removals this fiscal year than our budget can accommodate, which could result in less progress on Ash tree removals than we had hoped. We will try to get a contractor quote for all the removals identified in the August tree inspection before budget discussions with City Council next month, and may make a request for supplemental funding. Tree service contractors are still very busy, so it would be best to get work scheduled fairly soon.

Gary reported that the city received the Trees Forever grant check this week. We will look at submitting another proposal in the spring.

Public communications and concerns: Julie Becker indicated that she supported the idea of additional funding for derecho-related tree removals if needed.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 – 7:00pm, location to be determined
Wednesday, February 10th, 2021 – 7:00pm, location to be determined
Wednesday, March 10th, 2020 – 7:00pm, location to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.