

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00pm

The Dallas Center Tree Board met in electronic meeting via conference call on February 10, 2021 at 7:00pm due to Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds' February 5, 2021, 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

Guests:

Matt Ostanik, Planning & Zoning Commission Chair

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

Motion by Hannah Slaughter, second by Gary Park to approve the minutes of the January 13th meeting. Roll call all ayes, motion passed.

Public communications and concerns: None.

Matt Ostanik of the Planning & Zoning Commission attended the meeting to request feedback on a preliminary draft of an ordinance that would include some street tree requirements for new subdivisions. This was a follow up to a previous discussion regarding street tree planning at our November 2019 meeting. The discussion touched on tree spacing, minimum planting strip width, tree placement relative to sidewalks, coordination with utilities, who would select the trees, tree care responsibility, and street tree easements versus traditional city right-of-way. Matt hopes to return in the future after some additional research.

Gary reported that he contacted Emma Hanigan at the Iowa DNR to accept the Urban Forestry Program's invitation to update our previous 2014/2015 tree inventory and management plan. Emma indicated that we have been granted one of the available openings.

The latest information regarding the Walnut Street green corridor planning project is that the consultant ISG is looking into assembling a larger group of stakeholders for additional community input.

Due to budget constraints, our tree removal list of 19 trees has been pared down to 11. Dallas County Orchard LLC is scheduled to complete the work by June 1st. We will work on the remainder of the tree removals next fiscal year. Tree removal needs were higher than usual this year due to the August 2020 derecho storm.

Andy has ordered 200 seedlings from the Iowa DNR State Forest Nursery for our Arbor Day celebration and tree giveaway on May 1st. This is in addition to our featured Seven-Son Flower Tree seedlings that were ordered previously from another vendor.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 – 7:00pm, location to be determined
Wednesday, April 14th, 2021 – 7:00pm, location to be determined
Wednesday, May 12th, 2021 – 7:00pm, location to be determined

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.