

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 7:00pm
Meeting location: Legion Hall

Tree Board members present:

Gary Park, Chair
Hannah Slaughter, Vice Chair
Mary Werch, Liaison from Parks and Recreation
Bob German, ex officio member
Andy Schmitz, ex officio member
Brian Slaughter, ex officio member

Absent:

Greg Cagle, Secretary

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

Motion by Gary Park, second by Hannah Slaughter to approve the minutes of the June 6th meeting. Motion passed, 2-0.

Rick Wilson, homeowner on corner of Hatton/Linden, states a ROW tree was put in previously but has since died. He is wanting to put in his own memorial tree further north of the last planting. Brian Slaughter gave him the go-ahead on this, but told him to let the city know when he decided what would be planted. Rick will be advised that the city will not replace the memorial tree should it happen to die.

Brian Slaughter asked for a dollar amount for tree removal for the fiscal year. Board agreed to \$10,000 as was previously allotted. Brian will get bids and report back.

Brian states that a tree at 200 10th street, in the alley, had a large branch break off last year and was braced with a cable. This tree is needing to be removed. Also noted a dead ROW tree at 1500 Vine. Gary states our next meeting is our annual drive-around and we will be prioritizing trees to be removed.

Tree inventory has been completed. Board discussed using this inventory to also keep track of trees that are being treated.

Gary called Trees Forever to verify the grant is still available, it is. Gary will continue on this application.

Mary is trying to get a MidAmerican grant to spade in some trees. Grant would be \$2000. City Council is concerned about not having a budget to replace trees being removed, so Parks and Rec suggested not spading in trees to allow for more trees to be planted with the money.

New ordinance for tree requirements in new developments passed both readings at July council meeting. Brian reports that the Luke Little property was purchased for a new development.

Board questions whether this development will be required to follow the new ordinance, or whether it will be grandfathered in. Gary will follow up on this.

Council is scheduling a joint meeting with Parks and Rec. Gary has requested that the Tree Board be added to this meeting. To be scheduled in August.

Board discussed the suggested trees for the Downtown Streetscape Project. Concerns for spacing, canopy coverage and mature height and width were discussed for each tree. Mary and Brian voiced concerns on taking care of downtown trees and plantings each year. Both agree that extra staff would be needed each summer for watering. Gary suggested watering spigots be added into the Streetscape Project plans. Brian voiced concerns of different sunlight during the winter for each side of the street as well as the need for extra salt on the south side of Main Street. Planters and trees will also change snow removal plans. Andy suggests columnar trees to allow more visibility for businesses, Bob agrees. Gary suggests replacing the Afterburner with Firestarter on the tree list as Afterburners are not recommended for streets due to intolerance. Andy suggests replacing Autumn Brilliance with Adirondack Crabapple.

Bob and Andy suggest a joint meeting with Main Street business owners to discuss tree recommendations and the businesses desires for the Streetscape Project.

Mary states Parks and Rec are taking out 7 trees and have 5 trees being treated for Ash Borer. Requests the trees on North Kellogg be evaluated for treatment at the August Tree Board meeting.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 – tree inspection tour, 6:00pm

Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 – Legion Hall, 7:00pm

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021- Legion Hall, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.