

Dallas Center Tree Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:00pm
Meeting location: Memorial Hall

Tree Board members present:

Greg Cagle
Pat Freeland
Hannah Slaughter
Bob German, ex officio member
Andy Schmitz, ex officio member
Brian Slaughter, ex officio member
Mary Werch, Liaison from Parks and Recreation

Guests:

Andrew Larson, JEO Consulting Group

Greg Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Pat Freeland was introduced as the Tree Board's new member, replacing Gary Park. His appointment to the Tree Board by the mayor was approved by the city council on December 14th. His term expires on June 30th, 2023.

Motion by Greg Cagle, second by Hannah Slaughter, to approve the following slate of officers, effective immediately:

Pat Freeland, Chair
Greg Cagle, Vice Chair
Hannah Slaughter, Secretary

Motion passed, 3-0.

Public communications and concerns: Julie Becker noted that the Tree Board's work is important to our community, and she would like to see the street tree city budget line item increased.

Motion by Greg Cagle, second by Hannah Slaughter to approve the minutes of the November 11th meeting. Motion passed, 3-0.

Andrew Larson of JEO Consulting Group presented a new Dallas Center Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan summarizes tree inventory data collected by JEO in the summer of 2021 and makes recommendations for removals and maintenance. The work was underwritten by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The inventory included 930 trees on street right of ways and city parks.

The report estimates that our city trees provide us with approximately \$120,000 worth of benefits annually, by reducing energy costs, intercepting storm water, improving air quality, sequestering carbon, and adding aesthetic value. Species diversity has improved some since the 2014 report, with reduced proportions of Maple and Ash, and increases in Oak, Spruce, Honey Locust and Elm. The board noted that the inventory may have missed some of the newer Kentucky Coffeetrees.

Brian Slaughter reported that Xtreme Tree has completed the work they were contracted to do last fall. This included 8 Ash tree removals, 4 other removals, and trimming two trees. Cost was \$11,700.

Spring tree removals have not been bid yet. Brian needs a new list. Amount remaining in street tree budget for this fiscal year is approximately \$13,500.

Andy reported that the three damaged columnar oaks on Vine Street have been removed.

Bentley Ridge Tree Farm & Nursery donated 26 trees to Spurgeon Manor, which were planted by staff and volunteers. One donated tree was planted near the city pool.

Arbor Day is on April 29th this year, and we intend to schedule our local celebration for April 30th. Andy has placed an order for 200 seedlings from the DNR State Forest Nursery for our annual tree giveaway. The DNR provided the trees at no cost. We will be receiving 25 each of Serviceberry, Nannyberry, Chinkapin Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Sycamore, Norway Spruce, River Birch, and Red Oak.

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, February 10th, 2022 – location to be determined, 7:00pm

Thursday, March 10th, 2022 – Memorial Hall, 7:00pm

Thursday, April 14th, 2022 – Memorial Hall, 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.