FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – April 15, 2025

In attendance:

Greg Zenker	Brett Gurholt	Brian Houle	Dawn Kopp
Carolyn Godfread	Kate Herzog	Dave Mayer	Eric Gabbert
Christy Ames-Davis			

Christy Ames-Davis called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the January 21, 2025, regular meeting of the FAB:

There were no questions or comments on the minutes. Greg Zenker moved to approve the minutes. Dawn Kopp seconded motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Election:

- Currently the Chairperson & Vice Chairperson serve a one year term. Doug Prchal and Amy Sakariassen's terms have expired.
- The Chairperson nominees were Dawn Kopp & Brett Gurholt. Christy called for other nominations and there were no others. Carolyn Godfread moved to approve Brett Gurholt as Chairperson and Greg Zenker seconded the motion. All were in favor & the motion was passed.
- The Vice Chairperson nominees were Mitch Becker & Brian Houle. Christy called for other nominations & there were no others. Dawn Kopp moved to approve Brian Houle as Vice Chairperson & Greg Zenker seconded the motion. All were in favor & the motion was passed.

Forestry Activities/Staffing Update:

- Christy reported the Forestry Division is short staffed. There is an arborist vacancy and a forestry technician vacancy. We are in the process of interviewing for the forestry technician and this is the third time advertising for the arborist position.
- Forestry staff completed all the removal and pruning work orders from 2024.
- Elm firewood inspections started late March and will continue into May.
- Brian suggested using door hangers for notifying homeowners of Elm firewood.
- Once Elm firewood inspections are completed staff will be working in the Parks and planting.

2025 Planting Projects and Grants:

- Forestry will complete the 2nd and final year of the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Grant. There have been 150 trees ordered from Prairie View Landscaping & Tree Rows 4 U to be planted through this grant. The NDFS has provided maps of two areas of town where tree planting could occur. These areas were identified as being ones with low tree canopy. Maps were shown of the areas. One area is along East Main Ave with some areas north of Main and some areas south of Main. The other area identified is north of East Century Ave along Nebraska Dr and streets west of Nebraska Dr. The tree species being planted are Elm, Alder, Linden, Honeylocust, Oak, and Hackberry.

- Parks and Rec received ATB Tree Planting grant for Normandy Park. Forestry will assist with tree planting on this grant. This will include street trees and trees within the park.There are 63 deciduous and 9 Scotch pine trees being planted.
- Christy has recently applied for another ATB grant that if awarded, would be completed in the Spring of 2026. The grant would add 59 trees (a mixture of evergreen and deciduous) to the north side of West Main Ave just west of Washington St. The estimate for plant material was $9,000. Forestry staff would plant the trees.

2025 Contracts:

- Beaver Creek Tree Service has the pruning contract which is for $130,000. This is their 3rd and final year. They will be pruning in the Cottonwood Loop area to start and then move north of I-94, & East of Centennial Rd.
- Don's Stump Grinding has the stump contract which is for $30,000. This is also their 3rd and final year.
- TreeMax has the ash tree removal contract & Beaver Creek has the ash stump removal contract. We have budgeted around $80,000 between the contracts. We have funding to support one more year of contract ash removals.

2025 Arbor Day:

- Arbor Day is scheduled for Friday, May 2nd 2025 at 1 p.m. at Custer Park. The memorial tree will be planted in honor of Stan Churchill.
- St Mary's 3rd graders and Dorothy Moses 4th graders will attend.
- PIP sponsors from 2024 will be recognized and Apple Seed awards will be given for beautification efforts on public property in 2024.
- Tuesday, April 29th Forestry crew will be partnering with Scheels to hand out 100 trees at Scheels, Kirkwood Mall from 3:00 -6:00 p.m.

Other Business:

Kate Herzog stated she may know someone that wants to do fundraising for Partners in Planting.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:39 p.m.