

**URBAN FORESTRY TREE BOARD MINUTES**  
**June 22, 2023 Regular Meeting**



*The meeting was called to order by Chair Ludwig at 4:31 pm on June 22, 2023, in Government Center Room 204 & virtually via Teams Microsoft.*

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** *Ruth Ludwig, Richard Kaufman, Robert-Jan Quené, Jared Ludwig, Vern Northrup*

**Members Excused:** *Megan Gil-de-Lamadrid, Nick Nelson*

**City Staff Present:** *Linda Cadotte, Michael Maruska, Kara Czapinski, Cameron Volbrecht, Jim Paine\*, Jenny Van Sickle\**

**Others Present:** *Evan Larson, Melonee Montano, Paul Priestley, Shelly Nelson, John Ludwig*

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.1. Urban Forestry Tree Board (Meeting held January 19, 2023)

**MOTION by Robert-Jan Quené, second by Richard Kaufman, and carried to approve the minutes from January 19, 2023.**

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION by Robert-Jan Quené, second by Richard Kaufman, to start with New Business followed by Old Business.**

3.1. Election of Officers

3.1.1. Election of Chair

**MOTION by Robert-Jan Quené, second by Richard Kaufman, and carried to elect Ruth Ludwig as Chair.**

3.1.2. Election of Vice Chair

**MOTION by Robert-Jan Quené, second by Richard Kaufman, and carried to elect Robert-Jan Quené as Vice-Chair.**

3.2. Presentation “Nimmaawanji’idimin Giiwitaashkodeng: We are all gathering around the fire” – Evan Larson & Melonee Montano

This program is a Wisconsin Sea grant funded research and outreach project. It is designed to explore how the Anishinaabe people connected to the lands of Wisconsin and Minnesota points, and how they used fire to manage the landscape. The presentation was led by Evan Larson with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and Melonee Montano a Red Cliff tribal member and a University of Minnesota graduate student. The project name, “Nimmaawanji’idimin Giiwitaashkodeng,” translates into “We are all gathering around the fire.” History and data were provided, highlighting the story of Ishkode, fire, and forest change on Zhaagawaamikong Neyaashi as described by the rings of red pine trees. It was discussed by the committee, that the information received may guide the City to manage the environment with fire on Wisconsin Point and other forested lands in the future.

**Melonee, Evan, and Paul left the meeting at 5:38 p.m.**

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

##### 4.1. Arbor Day Update

Director Cadotte discussed that the plan for Arbor Day this year, would be to host a celebration to qualify for Tree City USA. A self-guided tree tour will take place and will include a variety of 24 species around Barkers Island. All these species have been mapped out for the tour. The next step is to make signage for around the trees. Information regarding this event will be given to the Summer Playground Program, Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, Barkers Island Inn, and will also be highlighted in Lake Superior Days. The plan is to build onto this tour in future years.

Director Cadotte discussed that close to Arbor Day, is when the City does the Tribute Tree ceremonies. This year, there were over a dozen trees planted throughout the program, including 12 ceremonies.

##### 4.2. Holiday Tree Update

Superintendent Michael Maruska discussed that the holiday tree in Center City Park was removed in February. The initial plan was to plant a balsam fir from the Municipal Forest. Since there weren’t many identified, and because the success rate for transplanting from the forest was around half, it was recommended to plant a nursery tree for best success. A 4-foot balsam fir will be planted in the Fall, with no objections from the Board. Director Cadotte stated that the log that was removed initially from the park, is going to be carved into a sculpture, and will be put back into Center City Park to memorialize the tree that was removed. The City will be working with Superior High School in the Fall, to create around 250 ornaments from the removed limbs.

4.3. Municipal Forest Master Plan (Final draft for approval)

**MOTION by Richard Kaufman, second by Robert-Jan Quené, to postpone the Municipal Forest Master Plan approval, until the next meeting date of July 20, 2023.**

**5. RECURRING BUSINESS**

5.1. Director's Update

5.1.1. The last Urban Forestry State Council Meeting discussed information applicable to the Nimmaawanji'idimin Giiwitaashkodeng Presentation, which is the use of biochar. It is used for burning wood to a certain temperature, to create a charcoal substance to improve the soil and overall health of trees. There will be more information to come surrounding grants, and the potential to use fire as a management tool for invasive species in the Municipal Forest.

5.2. Superintendent's Update

5.2.1. In February, four employees including the Superintendent, attended the Wisconsin Arborist Association Annual Tree Conference.

5.2.2. The Wachtel Tree Science Training was a success. The entire parks staff, guests from other cities, and Councilor Ludwig attended.

5.2.3. There was a small crew that pruned trees ahead of the brush pickup in May.

5.2.4. Preparing stump grinding bid.

5.2.5. The trees that were planted in the Spring, are being watered weekly.

5.2.6. The new lift should be here in October.

5.3. Future Agenda Items

5.3.1. Municipal Forest Master Plan

5.3.2. Holiday Tree Update

5.3.3. Follow-up on Nimmaawanji'idimin Giiwitaashkodeng Presentation

**5.4. Confirm next meeting date as July 20, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the Government Center**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Ludwig announced the meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

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*Respectfully submitted by Kara Czapinski*