

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT	Anastacia Davis, Bryan Belisle, Dan Louismet, Mike Shepard, Don Torgerson, Joann Toth
MEMBERS ABSENT	Bill Ganzlin,
STAFF PRESENT	Mark Burch, Jesse Farrell, Mike Natterstad and Ellen Richter
VISITORS	Paul Peltier with White Bear Township, Deb Neutkens with White Bear Press and Jeff Hafner with Rainbow Treecare
NOTE TAKER	Mark Burch

AGENDA TOPICS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dan Louismet called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from January 16, 2018 was moved by Mike Shepard and seconded by Joann Toth. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the February 15, 2018 agenda was moved by Bryan Belisle and seconded by Mike Shepard with the addition of 6.c. EAB Presentation. Motion carried.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Gazebo Renovation

Mark Burch reported that the inspection report is not yet available.

b) Arbor Day Activities – May 5, 2018

The Park Advisory Commission continued the Arbor Day discussion to the March meeting.

c) Emerald Ash Borer Presentation

Mark Burch and Mike Natterstad explained to the Park Commission that the DNR has detected Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in ash trees on the south side of White Bear Lake. This is the first confirmed detection of EAB in the City. The Public Works Department is developing a program to manage the ash tree population on both public and private property. Jeff Hafner, an arborist from Rainbow Treecare, presented information on the history of EAB in other states as well as what current practices are being followed by other cities. The current best practices, learned from 15 years of research, is a balanced approach of treatment of select ash trees and removal of others with a replanting strategy accompanying both.

The DNR estimates that there are approximately 11,400 ash trees in the City and most are medium to large in size. The City has about 350 ash trees on its municipal building grounds and manicured park spaces. Based upon proposals received from the Parks Department, the cost to treat trees on municipal property is \$3.90 per inch when trees are measured at breast height. Trees on private property can be treated for \$5.75 per inch.

The Commission discussed many components of the ash tree program, contract alternatives and how the Commission could get involved. The Park Advisory Commission adopted a motion by Joann Toth, seconded by Mike Shepard to support City efforts to treat ash trees on City property. City staff will continue to develop an overall EAB program to assist private property owners as well as address ash trees on City property.

7. OTHER STAFF REPORTS

None.

8. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Park Commission, the meeting was adjourned. Moved by Joann Toth and seconded by Mike Shepard.