

Tree Advisory Panel

Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2010 LOCATION: Hillcrest Recreation Center

PANEL MEMBERS and ATTENDANCE:

<i>Attended</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Representing</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seitu Jones	Council Ward 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Craig David	Council Ward 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Johnson	Council Ward 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barb Spears	Council Ward 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deb Robinson	Council Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rich Kramer	Council Ward 6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nancy McGuinness	Council Ward 7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Bartsh, Chair	Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Morgan, Vice Chair	Private Tree Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeanne Weigum	Friends of Parks & Trails
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristen Nelson	University of Minnesota
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erick Goodlow	Parks Commission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dave Ronzani	Parks & Recreation – Design
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karl Mueller	Forestry/Panel Facilitator

OTHER CITY STAFF: Greg Reese –Forestry Construction Liasion | Zach Jorgensen –
Minnesota Greencorps member

OTHER GUESTS: Daniel Kaisershot

1. MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chair Bartsh.
- b. The May minutes were approved.
- c. Deb Robinson has moved to Shoreview and will be stepping down from the TAP representing Council Ward 5. Her last meeting will be July.

2. DISCUSSION ITEM #1 – RESIDENTIAL STREET VITALITY PROJECT (RSVP)

Greg Reese provided an update on the structured removal of ash trees during implementation of RSVP projects. Since our last TAP meeting, Parks and Public Works have worked together and developed a strategy. Greg provided maps of current RSVP projects involving ash structured removal and the total number of

trees to be removed in 2010. Residents are given at least 5-days notice of the removal, but there is really no recourse for residents to prevent the removal as the City is being proactive in light of EAB and will be replanting trees following the completion of the RSVP. Greg acknowledged that there will be some neighborhoods where this will not be very well received.

TAP discussion on this topic:

- a. Suggest that more than a 5-day notice to residents will go a long way to improve public relations (PR) around this issue.
- b. Engage the District Councils to help with PR.
- c. Prepare a “pro-active” article for the Pioneer Press, Strib and local papers .
- d. Conduct public meetings for RSVP projects involving ash removal. May not be well attended, but the effort will be worthwhile from a PR perspective.

3. DISCUSSION ITEM #2 – EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE

- a. Zach provided an update on EAB.
- b. Some areas have completed their structured removal of ash through early-spring. Remaining areas will be done in the fall. Zach provided maps for future projects.
- c. EAB traps have been hung and there is no tree removal while the adult EAB is active.
- d. When asked if there is a website or other means to learn of newly infested trees, Zach indicated that he was not aware of any specific infested tree updates available at this time but new infestation maps are available at the Dept of Ag website and on the Saint Paul Forestry website as they are updated.
- e. There are ash wood utilization efforts underway. Wood from the Hood is exploring the opportunity to market ash hardwood flooring.
- f. Concerned that people are offering their ash trees on Craig’s list for free
- g. Zach mentioned a yard sign to “Don’t haul until Fall.” He will send an e-mail blurb on this to TAP members to forward.

4. DISCUSSION ITEM #3 (ADDED TO THE AGENDA) – JOINT MEETING WITH MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION AUGUST 12.

Zach mentioned an offer by the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission to hold a joint meeting with TAP on August 12 at the St. Paul Campus. TAP members indicated interest in this. Zach will pursue this further with Rachel Coyle and confirm via an e-mail notice to all TAP members.

5. DISCUSSION ITEM #3 (ADDED TO THE AGENDA) - MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2010R-268

Barb mentioned the e-mail notice that the Minneapolis City Council recently passed Resolution 2010R-268 urging residents to refrain from using insecticides for Emerald ash borer. At issue is the mis-application of pesticides. It was suggested that this resolution was politically motivated. The TAP felt that the City of St. Paul should not pursue a similar action but that the City has the opportunity and responsibility to provide sound information to its residents in order for them to make informed decisions regarding the use of pesticides.

5. DISCUSSION ITEM #4 – CITIZEN WATERING PILOT PROGRAM

Deb has been working with her District Council 10 (D.10) to develop and Citizen Waterer Program and provided an update:

- a. Notice of a citizens' tree watering program has gone out on 2 District 10 email blasts.
- b. A short notice about the citizens' tree watering program was provided to the District 10 Summer newsletter (will be snail mailed to every household in D.10) in a few weeks.
- c. A notice for the program is in a prominent place on the D. 10 website.
- d. A stack of Tree Buddy (watering program) flyers will be provided at the D. 10 Environment Committee's Tree Appreciation event at Streetcar Station this Saturday (June 12).
- e. D.10 has a box of tree gators in their office now, and D. 10 staff is aware of and onboard with distribution of tree gators and will work to get block clubs involved (I've asked that they get email addresses of anyone who picks up a gator, so we can email that resident a weekly reminder to water on recycling day).
- f. D.10 Environment Committee chair (Mike McDonald) is acting as contact person for the outreach flyers, email blasts, and newsletter notice.
- g. Deb distributed flyers to 23 homes on Victoria (between Arlington and Wheelock/E. Como Blvd) that got new trees planted last weekend.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Barb Spears as reviewed and finalized by Karl Mueller.