



# Tree Advisory Panel

## Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2016

LOCATION: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board headquarters, 2117 West River Rd

PANEL MEMBERS & ATTENDANCE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, Council Ward 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric North, U of M
<input type="checkbox"/> Christine Soutter, Council Ward 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jen Gehlhar, Chair, At Large Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloria Zaiger, Council Ward 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leben McCormick, Private Tree Service
<input type="checkbox"/> Barb Spears, Vice Chair, Council Ward 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Heaton, Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, Council Ward 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Erick Goodlow, Parks Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Koetter, Council Ward 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Ronzani, Parks & Recreation—Design
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant, Council Ward 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Anderson, Forestry/Panel Facilitator
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Weigum, Friends of Parks & Trails	

ADDITIONAL FORESTRY STAFF: Cy Kosel

GUESTS:

**Meeting called to order:** 5:45

**Review Minutes:** Minutes from June meeting were not reviewed

**Announcements:**

Meeting was held in conjunction with the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission. Eleven MTAC members were in attendance including : Peggy Booth (Co-Chair); Steffanie Musich (Park Commissioner); Don Willeke (Secretary); Ralph Sievert (MPRB); Steve Collin (MPW); Robin Graywood (City Council); Peter MacDonagh (Mayor’s Office); Jim Walsh (Arborist); and citizens Jeanne LaBore and Robert Buck

Meeting was broken into two segments with TAP using the first segment to discuss the panel’s mission, goals, and then current or pertinent issues and MTAC using the second segment to do the same.

Jen was spokesperson for TAP with input from Cy Kosel and Eric North for clarification of specific points or to respond to questions from MTAC members.

- Jen explained the TAP mission and goals with Cy providing clarification on the specific differences between TAP and MTAC including how the panels are set up and function differently in their advisory roles.
- Cy summarized Forestry’s role and progress with Emerald Ash borer treatment and removal programs and Forestry’s current position on Amur Cork trees in the city. This led to a brief discussion on Forestry’s planting and re-planting program.
- Jen discussed advisory issues and outreach including the Landmark Tree program, the poster contest, the Arborday celebration, the Blooming St Paul program, the Citizen Pruner program, tree treks, tree trivia, event information released through the TAP Facebook page and Natural Resource Newsletter article. Jen also mentioned the TAP letter sent to Mike Hahm with regard to EAB and funding.
- MTAC asked TAP representatives questions about the number of ash trees being removed and treated in Saint Paul

MTAC spokesperson was Peggy Booth and she began by describing the goal and focus of MTAC and how it is different from TAP. Peggy was spokesperson for MTAC.

- Peggy indicated that the primary duty of MTAC is to advise the City and the park board and they do that through yearly general reports that discuss the state of the urban forest, urban forest policy, and major public projects that might impact the urban forest
- Peggy discussed the MTAC goal of Minneapolis having a 40% canopy cover by 2040 and how to reach that number the city needs to plant 25,000 trees a year – they are currently planting around 8,000 trees a year through special funding
- Ralph discussed the Park Boards efforts to get a standardized tree planting and care information into all city planning documents that would focus on three standards; right of way, open planting spaces, and engineered root spaces
- Ralph discussed Tree Preservation Coordinator position and its function as a “tree cop” and he and Cy explained how this position differs between the two cities
- TAP asked MTAC about whether or not Minneapolis had a unified tree ordinance and through discussion it was determined that Minneapolis and St Paul have similar ordinances were tree related codes are spread through multiple ordinances
- MTAC discussed an article in the Minnesota Historical Society magazine detailing the differences in the historical Dutch Elm disease programs between Minneapolis and Saint Pual

**Forestry Update:**

None

**Member Updates:**

None

**Adjourn:** 7:00pm