

Maple Grove Arbor Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022
Town Green Meeting Room
7 p.m.

- Call to Order** The regular meeting of the Arbor Committee was called to order by Chair Parenteau at 7 p.m.
- Members Present** Chair Mary Parenteau, Don Varney, Bob Henke, Frank Kampel, Marilyn Arnlund and Julie Gamber.
- Members Absent** Sarah Picket, Jake Wanek, Cody Lensing
- Also Present** Councilmember Hanson, Jesse Corrow
- Approval of Agenda** Item 4D – City Forester was added by Chair Parenteau. Motion Don Varney, second Bob Henke to approve the agenda. Vote all ayes. Motion passed.
- Approval of Minutes** Motion Frank Kampel, second Julie Gamber to approve the minutes from June 9, 2022. Vote all ayes. Motion passed.

Old Business

Hy-Vee North Funds Ideas were discussed on appropriate uses of the money. The committee would like to pursue a parcel of land along the west side of I-94 in order to preserve the trees. Staff believes the owner would want more than the available \$67,150 and will research the potential of purchasing the land as well as the possibility of acquiring an adjacent piece of T-zone property located on the Tri-Care site. The Arbor Committee feels Tri-Cares owners should donate the land to the city because of the difficulty accessing the property and previous unauthorized tree removal on the site.

The committee agreed that if purchased by the city, the property should become forest preservation area and designated a T-Zone. Corrow stated that both properties are already in a T-Zone but he will research further.

Another option discussed was replanting dead or dying trees within Central Park. Committee members agreed that the money should be spent on acquiring and preserving new land and not spent on park property.

Ed's Buckthorn

City Council approved a proposal by Ed's Buckthorn Control to treat the city's forest preservation area. The owner provided examples of his previous work, including 10 acres in Minnetonka Mills park as a comparable project. Work will begin this fall in the forest preservation area.

Parade Recap

Since the Smokey Bear costume did not work out, the committee would prefer the inflatable Smokey Bear for future events. Varney will research further.

The trees and shrubs provided by Grove Nursery looked good. Henke suggested that a pine or spruce tree is included next year.

City Forester

Chair Parenteau was curious on the status a new City Forester Position. Corrow said the City Administrator will discuss this with the council but does not feel it will be part of the 2023 budget. The new position will be seriously considered as part of the 2024 budget. Councilmember Hanson suggested City Forester job descriptions from other cities should be provided to the City Council for review. Committee members felt the job descriptions have been collected by the Arbor Committee. Job descriptions will be analyzed by Joe Hogeboom to see if there would any crossover with current staff positions.

New Business**Adopt a Street**

The Arbor Committee decided they will meet at Basswood Elementary on Tuesday, August 30th at 5 p.m. to pick up litter along Vicksburg Lane. Corrow will send a reminder.

Parenteau asked about parking lot being blocked off so people cannot dump there and stated there is no access to the park preserve from that parking lot. City staff uses the lot for parking when mowing the ditches and for snow storage.

Corrow will talk to staff about removing the curb cut, installing boulders or installing signage as a deterrent for the dumping.

New Arbor Committee Members

Parenteau and Corrow interviewed six applicants for the two openings on the committee. The two new members will be appointed by the city council ahead of the next Arbor Committee meeting on September 8th.

Area Reports

Henke suggested that Police Department should better communicate with neighbors when police involved incidents occur. Cited an occurrence in the Boundary Park neighborhood from the previous week that involved many squad cars and a police helicopter.

City Administrator Nelson will be at next meeting to present on the Community Center expansion project and Addison Dahmer will also attend to talk about her girl scout project.

Parenteau reported that the trees planted by MNDOT at the I-94 and Maple Grove Parkway interchange look awful. Corrow will find out if city staff is supposed to be watering and maintaining these trees.

Adjournment

Motion by Bob Henke, second Don Varney to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Vote all ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Arnlund, Arbor Committee Member