



PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE OPERATIONS

DATE: October 3, 2016

FROM: Jeff Heintz, Director of Service Operations *JH*

ITEM: Request donations for the Forestry Division Partners in Planting Program and Arbor Day fund for 2017

REQUEST:

Please place on the October 11, 2016, Board of City Commission meeting agenda permission to request donations for the Forestry Division Partners in Planting Program and Arbor Day fund for 2017.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year the Forestry Division uses corporate sponsorship in the form of donations to encourage street tree planting along Bismarck's roadways. These corporate sponsorships are matched with city funds to provide a 50% match with a maximum of a \$60 per tree rebate. This program has been very successful and continues to provide property owners an opportunity to recover some of their costs for planting street trees.

The Arbor Day donation allows Bismarck the opportunity to celebrate Bismarck's Tree City designation and promote tree planting in our community. The donations are used to purchase plaques for outstanding commercial landscaping, recognition for volunteers who planted trees in Bismarck under the Forestry Division's guidance, purchasing of the Arbor Day tree, Apple Seed Awards, dedication plaque, printing of the Arbor Day celebration program and billboard advertising promoting Arbor Day in Bismarck.

Both of these programs are budgeted for in the Forestry Division's request to the budget committee as outlined in the Solicitation and Acceptance of Donations City Policy that was updated at the January 12th, 2010 Board of City Commissioners meeting. These donations will be requested from October 2016 thru September 2017. Bismarck businesses will be contacted by a letter from the City Forester asking for their support of these programs.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:

Grant permission to request donations.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

I will not be present at the City Commission meeting to respond to questions the Board may have regarding this matter. **Contact:** Christy Ames-Davis, 355-1700, comes@bismarcknd.gov if you have any questions.