



Public Works Service Operations Department

DATE: September 30, 2019

FROM: Jeff Heintz, Service Operations Director 

ITEM: Permission to request donations for the Forestry Division's 2020 Partners in Planting Program and Arbor Day fund

REQUEST

Permission to request donations for the Forestry Division's 2020 Partners in Planting Program and Arbor Day fund.

Please place this item on the 10/8/2019 City Commission meeting agenda.

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 \$100 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 budget. These donations will be requested from October 2019 thru September 2020. Bismarck businesses will be contacted by a letter from the City Forester asking for their support of these programs.

I will be present at the City Commission meeting to respond to questions the Board may have regarding this matter.

RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION

Grant permission to the Forestry Division to request donations for its 2020 Partners in Planting Program and Arbor Day fund.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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