

# FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES – February 21, 2023

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### **In attendance:**

Brett Gurholt	Amy Sakariassen	Stan Churchill	Mitch Becker
Dawn Kopp	Anne Cleary	Dave Mayer	Christy Ames-Davis
Doug Wiles			

### **Absent:**

Erik Dietrich	Carolyn Godfread	Andrew Jordan	Doug Prchal
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Amy Sakariassen called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

### **Approval of the minutes from the August 16, 2022 regular meeting of the FAB**

Amy Sakariassen called for approval of the minutes from the August 16<sup>th</sup> FAB meeting. Brett moved to approve the minutes; Dawn seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

### **2022 DED/Elm Removals Report**

There were 31 positive DED trees removed in 2022. This total consisted of 18 street trees, 7 trees on private property, and 5 on parks property. There were 229 elm trees removed that were over 50% dead in 2022. This total consisted of 116 street trees, 67 trees on private property that were abated, & 46 trees on parks property, primarily at Hillside Park. Doug W reported the number of removals were down from 2021. Stan reported seeing good recovery from European Elm Scale.

### **2022 Partners in Planting/Tree Planting Report**

Christy reported there were 109 property owners served by the Partners In Planting Program for 2022. The total number of trees rebated in 2022 were 247. The total amount rebated for PIP was \$19,858.34 & the average rebate per tree was \$80.00. Christy reported the Bur Oak tree was the top tree planted for PIP in 2022. There were less Maple trees requested for PIP in 2022. The only Maple trees approved on the list are Amur, Tatarian, & Silver Maple trees.

### **Bismarck's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Planting – September 2022**

Doug W reported the 150<sup>th</sup> tree planting project at New Generations Park was very successful. The planting project was open to the public. Forestry partnered with Prairieview Landscaping and Nursery, The Boy Scouts, Farwest Rotary, & Parks & Rec. There were numerous volunteers & most of the FAB members were there helping as well. Prairieview Landscaping and Nursery provided the trees for the project at cost. We received a \$13,000 grant that paid for all trees for the project.

### **2023 Contracts Status (Stump grinding, pruning, injections)**

Doug W reported the Tree Pruning Contract is \$120,000. The stump grinding contract is \$14,000, & the tree injection contract is \$85,000 (\$150,000 contingency).

The tree pruning contract for 2023 was awarded to Beaver Creek Tree Service. They were the only Tree Service that bid on that contract. The contract is for 1,000 trees at \$120 per tree.

The 2023 Stump Grinding Contract & the 2023 European Elm Scale Injection Contract are out for bid.

Doug W reported we have a surplus of \$45,000 built up for Partners & Planting. Doug W stated he would like to use some of the funds where the entire city can benefit. He requested through the Budget process to use the surplus over 4 years. \$20,000 of those funds will be used toward tree planting for this planting project. Doug W asked for suggestions for areas to plant for this project. This project will be contracted. He suggested the areas of N Washington St, starting on Century Ave working North, focusing on major collector areas where most can benefit from tree planting. Amy recommended N Washington Street. Mitch also recommended median planting along N Washington St and Century Ave.

Doug W talked about the need to focus on EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) management. EAB has not been found in ND but we need to remain focused on managing our ash tree population in preparation for the arrival of the pest. The main focus the last couple years has been Elm tree removals. We are needing to identify ash trees in poor condition & remove them. Doug W stated we have gone from 35% of tree inventory being ash to a 25% decrease along with adding to the inventory. Amy asked how rapid is the spread of EAB. Doug W stated EAB will not be found for 4-5 years & within approximately 10 years will see more trees die & EAB will spike. Doug stated the more ash trees that we can identify for removal such as those under power lines or in poor condition will help us manage this issue.

### **2023 Arbor Day**

Christy reported Randy Bina will be recognized this year for Arbor Day. She stated we have not chosen the Park yet for the ceremony. Once the Park has been selected, they will then choose the school. Dawn has volunteered to be the emcee. Eric will hand out awards unless there are other members that would like to volunteer. Christy stated we do have a grant that can be used for promotional items for Arbor Day celebrations. She shared we are looking for ideas for the theme/slogan for Arbor Day. She will send out an email to members. Doug W stated they would like to have members send in ideas for the Arbor Day theme/Slogan as soon as possible to send to Newman signs for advertising. Christy gave an update on Forrest Von Flickentale. Forrest is currently with Sleepy Hollow being refurbished and should be ready by Arbor Day.

### **New FT Forestry Tech Position**

Doug W reported a full time Forestry Tech Position has been approved and is currently being advertised.

### **Projects for 2023**

Doug reported 43<sup>rd</sup> Ave did not get planted on East side of State Street. Ash Coulee will be worked on this summer. There will be approximately 210 trees planted on 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and approximately 120 trees planted on Ash Coulee. A contractor will be watering these trees to start then Forestry Division will take over. Doug reported for Parks planting – Lions Park will be getting a grant from the ND Forest Service to plant trees.

### **2024 Budget Prep**

Doug reported He is looking to add a Grapple saw to Forestry's fleet equipment. This would compensate for insufficient number of arborists in the Forestry Division as they would need one less arborist on site. Doug stated when we do get EAB two Grapple saws will be a necessity. Dawn asked ideally how many fulltime arborists would Forestry like to add & Doug stated ideally two. Brett suggested to possibly check for safety grants for Grapple saw. Brett stated he will check on this.

### **Term Expirations (Eric, Brett)**

Doug W reported Erik & Brett terms expired. Brett stated he will continue serving. Dawn made a motion to renew Brett's term. Mitch seconded the motion & no opposed & all were in favor. We will address Eric's term next FAB Meeting. Doug W stated we still have one vacancy open for a FAB member.

### **Other Agenda Items**

None

Meeting Adjourned at 1:17 pm