

FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES – May 16, 2023

In attendance:

Doug Prchal	Mitch Becker	Dave Mayer	Anne Cleary
Dawn Kopp	Jennifer Odell	Christy Ames-Davis	Doug Wiles

Absent:

Erik Dietrich	Carolyn Godfread	Amy Sakariassen
Brett Gurholt	Stan Churchill	

Doug Prchal called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

Approval of the minutes from the February 21, 2023 regular meeting of the FAB

Doug Prchal called for approval of the minutes from the February 21st FAB meeting. Dawn moved to approve the minutes; Mitch seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Seasonal Staffing

Doug W reported Forestry has hired a full time Forestry Tech that replaced 2 seasonal Forestry Tech positions. We now have full seasonal staffing for the summer. All seasonal positions have been filled. First time since Doug has been employed with the City.

2024 Budget

Doug W reported the official budget meeting for the Forestry Division is June 19, 2023. Doug W stated the re-occurring one time asks for the pruning contract is \$120,000, asking for 5% increase & to maintain 1000 trees per year for pruning. The re-occurring one time ask for stump grinding contract is \$14,000 & asking up to \$30,000 because of the volume of trees being removed & the number of stumps on the boulevards are high. We are asking for \$75,000 & hope to have it re-occurring for Elm tree injections.

Doug W reported a new ask for 2024 budget is Emerald Ash Bohrer (EAB) Management Reserve Fund. He is asking for \$200,000 to have reserve built into the budget rather than having to use emergency funds.

Doug W stated another new ask would be requesting a full time Forestry Tech to replace 2 part-time employees. This would allow 2 arborists to work by themselves & enable them to be more mobile & efficient.

Doug W stated they asked to utilize the surplus for Partners & Planting funds. There is \$47,000 in PIP funds & it was requested last year the city match that dollar for dollar & it was approved. This year we have \$20,000 for planting project. Prairie View Landscaping was awarded the planting project. This tree planting project is on North Washington St.

Grants –Doug W reported next year the Forest Service has increased the dollar amount for grants to \$25,000 per grant instead of \$10,000. They had contacted Doug with this grant opportunity for planting trees in lower socio-economic areas of town. Bismarck has been identified as being a potential community for this grant. Doug stated his total grant opportunities for 2024 is \$150,000.

New FAB Member Introduction Doug introduced the new FAB member, Jen Odell, the Park Commissioner.

2023 Contract Status

The pruning contract which was awarded to Beaver Creek Tree Service was signed early winter. However, with the large amount of snow we received they were not able to start until late. They are working in Territory, Tyler Parkway areas & moving to South of Wachter.

Stump grinding contract was awarded to Don Hawkinson. We previously had over 200 stumps in inventory & currently have approximately 40 stumps remaining. The cost is \$5.95 per inch for stump removals. The amount budgeted was \$14,000.

The Elm Injection contract was awarded to Paul Bunyan Nursery. There are between 250 & 300 trees on the contract list.

Arbor Day Recap (what went well & what can we do better)

Christy reported Arbor Day was successful. Christy & Doug W stated having difficulty making contact with schools. Doug asked for help and any suggestions for contacting schools. Jen stated Steve Kunz would be a good contact as he is a Public Information Officer with the Bismarck Public Schools. Dave suggested the PA system get upgraded for next year. Christy will start planning for next years Arbor Day in the Fall. Doug stated we will continue discussion of Arbor Day at the next quarterly FAB meeting.

Term Expirations (Eric)

Doug stated we will discuss Eric's term when he is present.

Other Agenda Items

Mitch reported planting beds are getting ruined in downtown area due to large amount of sanding over the winter. Doug W stated he will report this to the Street Dept.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:55 pm