

## **Vermillion City Tree Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Present: Rich Holland, Jim Goblirsch, Nate Steele, Ryan Baedke, Pete Jahn, Tyler Williamson, John Prescott, Trevor Job, Aaron Baedke, Joan Doss, Chris Clem-guest presenter

Jim Goblirsch opened the meeting.

#### *Old Business:*

Minutes from October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 were not able to be found due to a computer update.

Introduction of Chris Clem as a guest speaker at this meeting later in the agenda.

Goblirsch gave a review of the tree board highlights of 2019, this included Re Tree Vermillion participant numbers, EAB presenter Dr. John Ball, and number of trees that the COV Parks Department planted.

#### *New Business:*

Goblirsch brought up the topic of Re Tree Vermillion, he gave details how the program has struggled getting community members to purchase and plant the trees that were being offered. Goblirsch asked that the COV Tree Board think about ways to improve participation numbers and said that the next meeting will focus on the 2020 Re Tree program.

Goblirsch and Jahn shared with the group that they have been working on an ordinance that will be presented to the City Council dealing with EAB. This ordinance will include verbiage about the cutting of Ash trees, transportation of Ash wood, and allowed treatment of Ash trees. A draft will be presented to the Tree Board at the next meeting

Goblirsch shared with the group about the 2020 Tree Replacement budget that Vermillion City Council approved in September. Funding for the program will be \$10,000. Goblirsch than shared the number of trees that are planned to be planted in 2020 and other uses of said funding.

Jahn gave an update on Ash and other tree removal in the city. Goblirsch and Jahn shared with the group that the COV has a plan on removing a limited number of Ash trees each year so as when the time comes that EAB is found in or within 15 miles of Vermillion it will not become a City emergency to remove such a large number of trees at once.

Also it was noted that where trees are being removed, stumps are than ground out and new trees are being replanted in the general area.

Jahn then mentioned that at a conference he attended where EAB was a topic. SD Dept. of Ag and other experts believe the EAB spread across the State will be similar to that of Dutch elm disease; projections

are that EAB will be in Vermillion in the next 4 years or less. Tree species diversity was also shared with the group. Discussion followed.

*Other business*

Trevor Job from Elk Point shared what was going on in Elk Point as far as tree planting and the removal of Ash trees. Discussion was held about the possibility of Elk Point applying to be a Tree City USA community.

Nate Steel from USD shared some updates from the campus. Tree Campus USA was applied for and received for 2019. USD is working on planting trees and following their plan on the removal of Ash trees and treatment of remaining Ash trees.

Chris Clem visited with the board about the possibility of having an arboretum in the City of Vermillion. He gave details of what he was thinking, possible locations, and funding. He was very clear that this was just something that could be established in the future with the help of any of those that may be interested. Discussion followed.

Next scheduled meeting will be scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned.