

CITY OF BAYFIELD TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday,

January 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by B. Cozzi, City Forester and Chairperson of the Tree Board at 4:53 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Cozzi, Jane Edwards, Sherman Edwards, and Jacob Geisler.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dionne Johnston and Tad Paavola.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by J. Edwards to approve the agenda for this meeting as distributed with the addition of an item of New Business, the resignation of a current member. S. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by J. Edwards to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2023. S. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A financial report was received by the Board. A maintenance charge of \$500.00 was the only expense incurred year to date. Further information on the exact nature of this expense was not available at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Tree removal and stump grinding completed by Quality Tree Service resulted in actual billings in excess of the estimates obtained prior to the work being authorized. The Chairperson of the Tree Board will look into this discrepancy. There are a number of tree services in the area with which the City could contract for services. It may be possible to find a more favorable pricing system within this group. The new owner of the property on the corner of First Street and Manypenny Avenue will be contacted regarding the agreement with the former owner relative to the stump removal and replacement of the trees removed last fall.
2. Several grant possibilities were shared with the Board. There are a number of individual funds within the Apostle Island Community Funds which may be accessible. There are also urban forestry grants available through the Federal Inflation Reduction Act. The Board chairperson will pull together the appropriate information and discuss possible grant proposals with Tree Board member J. Sherman, who has written previous grant proposals which provided funding for Tree Board projects.
3. Volunteer hours – pruning and trimming. S. Edwards reported spending 2 hours in such activities in the area of South 9th Street and Highway 13 during the current month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. D. Johnston has submitted her resignation from the Tree Board effectively immediately. Ms. Johnston has recently assumed the position of treasurer with the Bayfield School Board. There are currently two vacancies on the Tree Board - positions previously filled by Susan Hedman and Dionne Johnston. Additional members, in addition to two replacements, could be accommodated by the Tree Board. A discussion took place in an attempt to identify potential members. The Chairperson will contact the identified individuals to explore their interest in joining the Tree Board.
2. The tasks associated with a specific future grant proposal were discussed. The primary focus would be on the twenty-seven trees identified for removal in the 2022 Urban Forestry Operations Plan. A potential budget would include the costs of removal, stump grinding, and replacement trees. Some of the trees slated for removal are apparently active woodpecker nesting sites. Special consideration will be given to these trees on a case-by-case basis.
3. An effort will be made to update and expand the Tree Board page on the City of Bayfield's website. It is hoped that such additional information will spur interest in the Board and the possibility of new members.
4. During the course of the next one or two months, an effort will be made to survey the individual trees slated for removal in the 2022 Urban Forestry Operations Plan with the intent to formulate a specific work plan for 2024.
5. The Chairperson reported that she had submitted the Annual Report of the Tree Board to the City Council and had completed the Tree City 2024 application materials as well. The application for a Tree City Growth Award is also being worked on. It is not clear if all of the requirements can be met in 2024.
6. Discussions continue between the Chairwoman and the S. Johnson of Pier Plaza Restaurant to have a fundraiser for the Tree Board later this spring. The Tree Board will be responsible primarily for publicity and any ancillary activity, such as, a 50-50 raffle.
7. A holiday party for the Tree Board is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, February 25, 2024.

FOLLOW-UP MEETING:

The next meeting of the Tree Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 5:00PM at the Bayfield Fire Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by S. Edwards and seconded by J. Edwards. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Geisler