

Forestry Board Minutes

June 1, 2009

Attendees: Sally, Connie, Andrea, Jim, Tyleen, Diane, Ann, Hap. Also in attendance were Alice and Susan Mitchell.

Minutes: May minutes were read and approved. Diane commented about a remark in the minutes to request e-mails from residents who purchased trees through the Program. She informed everyone that we requested e-mails on the tree order forms and other correspondence to those who purchased trees and everyone was notified on 3 different occasions to give update on planting date. Those who did not have e-mail were called accordingly.

Budget: An accounting error of approximately \$3000 in the Forestry Account has been transferred back to the City. Approximately \$5000 in Canopy funds have been dispersed, which equates to half the proposed budget.

Calendar Project: A few additional photos have been submitted by residents. Bill Wooldridge continues to make seasonal photos for calendar inclusion, if necessary.

Nursery: Little to report. There are still a few trees in the Lakeland Nursery including Horsechestnut, Willow Oak, and other varieties.

Anchor-age Newsletter: Nothing this month.

Canopy Campaign: A final report will be given in July. There was a discussion about the best time for the planting of trees. As Andrea and Mark have stated in the past many times, they suggest we consider doing our Canopy Tree Program in the fall when trees are dormant and can establish a stronger root system, resulting in a healthier looking tree. They have said that the same quality and species of trees are available in the fall as in the spring.

Hazard Trees: Alice, Andrea, and Susan Mitchell led this segment of the meeting, which included the history of the Hazardous Tree Program which was initiated in 1999. Alice read a 1994 Statement whereby the City “has the responsibility to keep the streets passable and safe to vehicular and pedestrian traffic”. Andrea said that Arborists evaluate trees on knowledge and experience so as to compare suspect trees with trees that have failed and to provide a watch list so as to identify and measure decline. She added that a biological system is always changing and that recent events, such as, the drought 2 years in succession, the wind storm, the ice storm, and hurricane “Ike”, to mention a few, have had a tremendous impact on the decline of many trees. Also, age reduces resilience. In addition, pruning can further damage a stressed tree by opening the branches or trunk to further decay and attack from parasites.

Arbor Day: There was a discussion about possibly purchasing a banner to promote Arbor Day Programs and use the banner yearly. Ann will check on pricing.

Anchorage Pride: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

