

MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting of February 17, 2022
Held remotely via Zoom
Decision/Consensus/Assignment items are set out in bold.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED TO REVIEW THESE MINUTES CAREFULLY
FOR ASSIGNMENT AND ACTION ITEMS PERTAINING TO THEM**

The Meeting of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC) of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) convened at 5:30 p.m. on February 17, 2022, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Co-Chair Peggy Booth, Steve Nicholson (MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee), Co-Chair Peter MacDonagh (U of M), Carol Sersland, Giuseppe Marrari, Steve Collin (Public Works), Don Willeke (Mayor’s Representative), Ralph Sievert (MPRB Forestry Director), Curt Hartog (School Board Representative).

Not in attendance: Susan Olmsted, MPRB Commissioner Steffanie Musich, Tim Keane.

Guests in attendance: Philip Potyondy (MPRB Sustainable Forestry Coordinator), Jim Paul and Levi Wooden (Environmental Design Inc.).

Pre-Meeting discussion

Steve Nicholson mentioned a presentation he attended by Angela Gupta, as part of a DNR state-wide committee, in which tree species considered to be noxious and/or invasive have been identified. One species that has planted in Minneapolis is the amur cork tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)¹. Nicholson mentioned the existence of a volunteer citizen reporting system for identifying their locations. The committee has recommended banning the sale and planting of amur cork tree and removing existing amur cork trees. Nicholson suggested scheduling her as a speaker for the MTAC. In response to a question, Philip Potyondy was that MPRB has not been able to acquire these recently and will continue to not incorporate in the tree line-up.

CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES

Co-Chair Booth called the meeting to order. Introductions by Board members were shared **the** meeting’s guests. **The MTAC meeting minutes for January 20, 2022, were approved.**

TRANSPLANTING OF LARGE TREES

Co-Chair MacDonagh introduced the guest speakers from Environmental Design, formerly Sterling Arbor; Jim Paul (founder and manager) and Levi Wooden (Forest Resources and Conservation and Tree Care and Restoration specialist). Sterling Arbor is now owned by Environmental Design Inc.(EDI)² EDI moves very large trees and does this in locations throughout the world.

Levi Wooden presented a PowerPoint overview of EDI titled “Tree Moving and Preservation”. EDI is the most experienced large tree transplanting, company in the world. The company is based in Houston, Texas with a local office in Scandia.

¹ <https://trees.umn.edu/news/amur-cork-tree-phellodendron-amurense>

² <https://www.treemover.com/>

Definition of “Large” tree = Nursery: 4-5 inches caliper, EDI: can move trees up to 40+ inches (largest tree was 7 ½ feet wide)

Topics covered:

- Best practices (e.g. root pruning)
- Designing for sites
- Methods for moving
- Selected projects.

Benefits of trying to preserve large trees on site: canopy protection, positive aesthetic effect, higher carbon dioxide sequestration, important historic value for the community, etc.

Average Estimated cost for moving a large tree with a tree spade: \$12,000. See example below.



Discussion continued about the application of moving large trees versus removing existing trees and planting new. Often it is a community’s tree preservation ordinances that drive transplanting/moving large trees over planting new. The other issue involves cost.

MPRB FORESTRY UPDATE

Sievert reported that he has registered the MTAC members indicating interest in the Shade Tree Short Course (virtually) on March 15 and 16.

Forestry Outreach Coordinator status: the position is on the list for the MPRB Human Resources Department to post, find qualified applicants and start the interview process. But HR has not gotten the position posted yet. Forestry’s Admin 1 and 3 have started this week. Two crew leader positions are in the interview process.

Crews are pruning boulevard and park trees, and oaks (now is outside the oak wilt season). Staff is working with *Tree Keeper* software to make it more field staff friendly. 9,000 trees will be sent from nurseries and planted this spring.

Arbor Day update: April 29th from 4 to 9 pm at 3rd Avenue N and N 5th and 5th Street. It will be a relaunch of the 2020 festival (which was cancelled) at the North Loop location where 130 trees were

planted. There will be music, and tree planting – U o M will be joining the activities. Building Better Forests will not be available this year as they have in the past. Could the MTAC develop something to engage attendees and create a festive environment? A form of scavenger hunt with the reward being a seedling was one suggestion.

MTAC BUSINESS

No specific announcements for this session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Commission's Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Carol Sersland – Commission Secretary