

MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting of March 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 March 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, Tim Keane, Susan Olmsted, Giuseppe Marrari, Steve Collin (Public Works), Don Willeke (Mayor’s Representative), Ralph Sievert (MPRB Forestry Director), Curt Hartog (School Board Representative) and MPRB Commissioner Steffanie Musich.

Not in attendance: Philip Potyondy (MPRB Sustainable Forestry Coordinator).

Guests in attendance: John Kruse (from the Seward neighborhood to listen and learn), Mark Sulander (Seward Tree Group) regarding troublesome tree removals, Melissa Licht (Seward neighborhood and partner with the neighborhood group).

Pre-Meeting discussion

Introductions of all present at today’s meeting.

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 February 17, 2022, were approved.**

REVIEW OF 2022 MN SHADE TREE SHORT COURSE

Co-Chair Booth asked Commission members to summarize their impressions and highlights from the MN Shade Tree Short Course. Booth chose the presentation by The Nature Conservancy regarding a nationwide program to involve citizens with an app (“Healthy Trees Healthy Cities”) to identify trees with potential stress. <https://healthytreeshealthycitiesapp.org/>

Co-Chair MacDonagh selection was a survey of young tree species and their survivability and factors that play a part in their establishment. “Winners”: Catalpa and Ohio buckeye. Less successful: tupelo and bald cypress.

Nicholson discussed the types of trees to match the surrounding conditions such as power lines (e.g. street trees vs. ornamental trees vs. park trees).

Olmsted mentioned the tree equity presenters, and Nature Conservancy and their Minnesota Million Trees effort, i.e. planting a million acres.

Marriari – tree planting protocol and the Met Council ‘Growing Canopy’ program and the differences in the neighborhood mapping and the goal of 45% cover. Musich asked about rental properties and

their interest or lack of in tree planting. She noted that Hennepin County has been completing mapping and analysis of this issue.

Keane – inspirational presentation by Brick Riley and his devotion and career in tree care as well as two communities efforts to manage EAB.

Sersland – Lakeville and Rochester efforts to make citizens aware of EAB and tackling it with property owners.

Booth – in our “own backyard”: kids that plant trees and subsequently track them with the tree in photos to engage people over the years with the success of the trees’ growth.

Future outreach coordinator could connect with the leader of this group mentioned above. Nicholson added the challenge of acquiring tree stock to achieve diversity in the tree species because a variety of tree species because of the lack of volume ordered. Perhaps if the cities and counties got together to purchase trees there would be improved variety of trees to choose from.

Sievert highlighted a presentation about tree care and tree management.

Musich presented a question for Sievert: the Park Board purchases lots of items from the state. Is possible to get trees through the state? Sievert was not sure but did verify that they have been getting enough trees for annual planting.

The sessions were recorded and will be available in one week for 30 days to those who were registered.

Booth – also mentioned the urban food forest presentation: “Urban Foraging in the North Central US”.

From the chat: Kruse: I’ve been reading “Nature’s Best Hope” and he talks about planting species that support lots of caterpillars, etc. That is, beyond diversity, particular species matter, some are better than others.

MPRB FORESTRY UPDATE

Potyandy is attending the Green Leadership Community Institute conference with Jeremy Barrick.

Tree Keeper software is being used extensively and keeping track of many activities, Sievert reported.

Planting will be more than 9,000 trees, at the end of March 4,000 will be gathered under the Washington Av bridge. Two nurseries are providing over 4,000 of the trees.

FORESTRY OUTREACH COORDINATOR position – HR is getting closer to posting the position.

Sievert invited the Seward visitors because of an incident involving a mass tree removal effort along a boulevard with no removal notices provided by the tree inspector (which is a policy that the Department deploys). The trees were removed based on their location under power lines. Note: mass tree removal such as this is not a policy of the Forestry Department. Replantings are planned for this year.

MTAC meetings are now on the MPRB calendar website with notice of dates and citizens can get a link to the Zoom meetings by sending a request to the Forestry Department. There is a work ticket submitted to Communications and Marketing to post the Agenda and Minutes for the MTAC, along with a description of the MTAC and its members as well as the Annual Report. This information has not been on the website in this format. (Note from the Secretary: The Annual Report presentation to the MPRB from the Tree Commission is from a 2019 You Tube video.)

[https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/event-](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/event-calendar/month/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=316&tribe_dayofweek%5B0%5D=5)

[calendar/month/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=316&tribe_dayofweek%5B0%5D=5](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care__improvements/trees/)

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There is a posting about for hiring more arborists – it is currently tough getting hires because the private companies are paying more money!

Arbor day details. See agenda item below.

Willeke inquired: with the levy ending what is the planting goal going to be next year (2023)? This is in the Budget request for additional trees; approximately 3,000 to 5,000 trees There will be Budget related agenda item and information to follow.

Musich asked about the species of replacement trees for the powerline location. Sievert replied that there will be species like crab apples and Japanese lilacs that are of shorter stature that will provide canopy. Booth mentioned that larger trees in these locations provide canopy despite their unusual form.

Minneapolis Public Schools – Tree Community Plans & Goals Update

Hartog reported on the status of trees on Minneapolis school grounds. 76 sites that they manage across the City. 27 sites have about 330 ash trees. With approximately 600 trees on school district properties, half will be removed due to EAB. Notice from the Forestry Department indicates that 178 are being removed. Many are mature and some in courtyards – so there are challenges.

Many issues are present in the tree selection process to be sensitive to students: fruit trees become projectiles, flowering trees /pollinators constitute a hazard to those who have allergies and/or attract bees (no lindens e.g.).

So far there are 57 container trees because of a grant from Hennepin County. Want to engage the students in the replanting effort and are working with the schools for scheduling. The District also works with the neighborhood regarding maintenance like summer watering. They are working through how to acquire funding to replant trees species that will provide canopy and survive.

Musich asked for specifics: there are 178 trees being removed with approx. 57 replacements. Is there a list of locations where trees are being removed but not replanted? Musich is working with a group that is supporting tree planting and they may be willing to support additional planting efforts with funding. Has there been an idea of tree planting “potential”? MPS hasn’t done any analysis about where or how much additional planting could be achieved.

Booth proposed investigating grant potential for school locations that could be used to plant more trees. She also requested a list of trees that are candidates for planting for the MTAC to review.

2022 ARBOR DAY, APRIL 29TH, 4-8 PM

Arbor Day update: April 29th from 4 to 8 pm at Modest Brewing: The event will be based at Modest Brewing (505 N 3rd St). MTAC will have a table and may have seedlings to hand out. <https://modistbrewing.com/>. 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.

SEWARD TREE GROUP

Mark Sulander thanked the Commission for the invitation and the opportunity to work with MTAC to improve tree environment in the City. Sulander provided an overview of St. Paul's proposed financing program, Green Bonds.

[St. Paul Port Authority sells first-ever 'sustainability' bonds for Emerald Ash Borer removal](#)

Booth described efforts that Minneapolis has initiated to plant trees and maintain them in north Minneapolis – in part as a response to the 2011 tornado destruction. All bonds are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Estimate and Taxation with the need to be included in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Booth proposed scheduling an entire meeting to discuss all aspects of the potential for bonding and/or other options.

Green Minneapolis has been working to develop “new funding streams” – Musich has been leading an effort to replace the tax levy. An alternative to show our support is: contact the Mayor's office and Park Board Commissioners about the need for tree funding.

Willeke mentioned that we/he had not received the proposal details for funding with carbon credits. **Musich will send a copy.**

Set up a meeting with Jeremy Barrick and Michael Schroeder in May for a presentation about the details of financing. MacDonagh described Montgomery County, MD and their green infrastructure bonding.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/climate/climate-action-plan-printer-friendly.pdf>

HOW to achieve setting up trees (including items like stormwater management) as a priority right after police and fire? Musich has been working on this as has Willeke.

Note that Chair Booth will be absent at next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted: Carol Sersland – Commission Secretary