

# MINNEAPOLIS TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting of April 18, 2024

Held at the MPRB Tree Distribution Site

**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**

**NOTE: This meeting was held onsite at the Department's Tree Distribution Site – the meeting site and information was published on the website one week ahead of the meeting.**

**<https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/trees/minneapolis-tree-advisory-commission/>**

The April 18th MTAC meeting will be held in the field at the MPRB's Tree Distribution Site. A pdf of driving directions to Tree Distribution Site is provided.

[Driving-Directions To MPRB Tree Site](#) [PDF]

The meeting of the Minneapolis Tree Advisory Commission (MTAC) of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) convened at 5:30 p.m. on April 18, 2024, with the following Commission Members in attendance: Peter MacDonagh (U of M liaison), Chris Linde (District 1), Co-Chair Giuseppe Marrari (District 2), John Kruse (District 3), Mary Bolla (District 4), Carol Sersland (District 5), Barb Schlaefer (District 6), Co-chair Tim Keane (At-Large), Don Willeke (Mayor's Representative), Ralph Sievert (MPRB Forestry Director), Billy Menz (MPRB Commissioner, District 1), Katie Cashman (City Council, Ward 7).

Not in attendance: Steve Nicholson (MN Shade Tree Advisory Committee), Steve Collin (Public Works), Sydney Schaaf (Health Department, City Trees Program Manager), Curt Hartog (Public Schools Representative)

Guests in attendance: Craig Pinkalla (Forestry Preservation Coordinator), Philip Potyondy (Sustainable Forestry Coordinator), Danielle Schumerth (Forestry Outreach Coordinator).

## CALL TO ORDER AND MINUTES

The MTAC field tour commenced at 5:30 pm. **The MTAC meeting minutes for March 21, 2024, will be reviewed and approved at the May 16 meeting.**

## MPRB FORESTRY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

### Notes from the tour:

Regarding the necessity of visiting the nursery

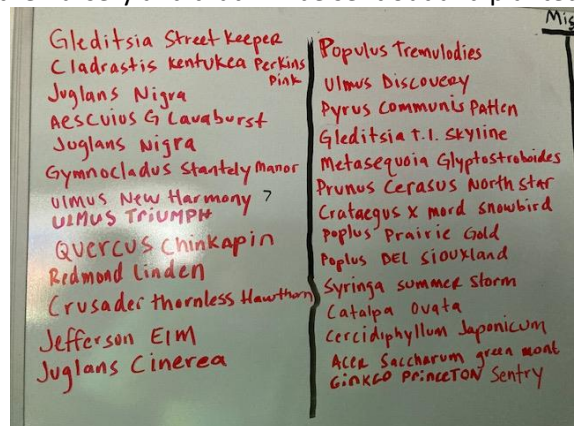
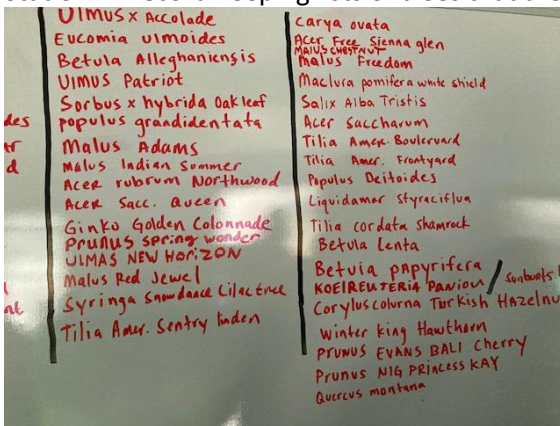
The tree lot is ephemeral. So inspection of the tree lot is time sensitive and therefore, more urgent, regardless of its importance ranking. We could not put that off for a month nor move it up any earlier.

Minneapolis plants more trees than any other agency in the state (exception being the Mn Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) it's a worthwhile trip.

Station 1: Heating box for the water hydrant. In previous years a tent was used to cover the hydrant in case of freezing temperatures, but since the tent disappeared last year, a more permanent solution was created this year.



Station 2: Record keeping lists of trees that are on site at the nursery and that will be sent out and planted.



Station 3: Example of trees temporarily heeled in



Station 4: Additive to water that sets up as a gel that coats tree roots and keeps roots wet on their travels to a permanent location.



Station 5: Examples of high quality Dutch elm disease-resistant 'St. Croix' American elm stock.



Station 6: Example of the high quality mulch/ organic soil used to keep the soil around the tree roots moist.



Station 7:

Example and discussion of encircling tree roots sometimes found with containerized root systems, and the fact that they will be corrected during the planting process.



Station 8: Example of how the root treatment liquid has jelled and is used to coat tree roots to keep them hydrated (roots in the photo are tamarack seedlings).



**2024 TREE PLANTING – THIS SECTION ALSO NEEDS TO BE UPDATED.**

The bid deadline for nurseries was Thursday (February 8<sup>th</sup>). Department staff completed the analysis of the bids and coordinated with the nurseries to verify stock, quantity, and to schedule deliveries. The resolution (to approve the purchase of the 9,600 trees) went to the MPRB on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussion continued around the vast number of specific individual bid items and purchases were made from the lowest bids until all needs were met. In terms of dollar volume, it's approximately \$1 million (average of 1,000,000 \ 9600 = \$104 per tree). Planting started on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Question: if the drought continues, is the department taking any special precautions? The trees are watered when they are planted, then a second watering. More routine watering happens during the season.

**EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) IMPACTS: PRIVATE PROPERTY CONCERNS  
MPRB Commissioner Menz and MTAC member Sersland**

A summary list of the subcommittees' recommendations was shared with the Subcommittee members on April 17<sup>th</sup>. A response was received from Mitchel Hansen on April 18<sup>th</sup> with 13+ additional recommendations.

As previously mentioned, there are multiples of agencies working on EAB in different capacities. For example, the Minneapolis Health Department (Sydney Schaaf), Hennepin County, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the MnDNR are all putting resources towards mitigating the effects of EAB infestations. We are trying to collaborate and be as effective as we can.

The recommendations will be discussed further and presented to the MTAC at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission's field session ended at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Carol Sersland – Commission Secretary