



# MEETING MINUTES

## TREE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING  
OAKDALE TREE BOARD  
City of Oakdale  
January 17, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Tree Board of the City of Oakdale was held Tuesday, January 17, 2022 at the Oakdale City Hall, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Nick Kantola.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### II. CALL OF ROLL

Members Present: Cathie Schreifels  
Dallas Pierson  
Glen Giacoletto  
Marge Sagstetter  
Mike Saarela  
Nick Kantola  
Stan Karwoski

Also Present: Loren Cota, City Forester – Tree Board Staff Liaison  
Deb Moeller - WCMG Liaison

\*There was not a council liaison present.

Quorum Present: YES  NO

### III. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR BOARD MEMBERS

Dallas Pierson nominated Nick Kantola for chair. 2:18

Stan Karwoski seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Nick Kantola made a motion to close the nominations for position of Chair. Dallas Pierson moved the motion, Cathie Schreifels seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed. Moving on to Vice-Chair, Nick Kantola made a motion to nominate Marge Sagstetter for the Vice-Chair. Cathie Schreifels seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Motion passed. Nick Kantola made a motion to close the nominations. Dallas Pierson moved the motion. Glen Giacoletto seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.



# MEETING MINUTES

## TREE BOARD

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dallas Pierson made a motion to approve the June 21, 2022 meeting minutes. Stan Karwoski seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Dallas Pierson made a motion to approve the September 20, 2022 meeting minutes. Cathie Schreifels seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

### TREE BOARD REVIEW

#### a. OLD BUSINESS

##### i. Arbor day

##### 1. Tree bags

The logistics are being worked out with City Hall for purchasing tree bags. Mike Bender inquired if there is a plan to sweat them. Loren replied that the trees are received about 1 week prior and are placed under plastic at public works until the day of the event. Mike Sarella inquired if registration for the Arbor Tree Giveaway is going to be online? Loren confirmed it would. Last year was a rainy day and several people showed up at a time other than they were scheduled for. Loren stated if that happens again, he plans to have dual lines to accommodate the situation. Marge asked Deb Moeller if the Master Gardner's will be there and Deb's response was yes. Marge asked Loren how do we get the little trees and Loren's response was that last year he bought them as he has been having trouble getting the DNR seedlings. Loren orders them from the Washington Conversation District as well as from Schumacher's Berry Farm. Nick inquired if the Cub Scouts are usually there which they are but Loren hasn't heard from them yet so is not certain if they will be this year. Nick also asked if Loren wanted to reach out to some local tree companies to see if they want to be there too. Loren didn't think that would be a bad idea and asked for suggestions of who he should contact. Nick said he would be happy to reach out to people. Marge mentioned they had also talked about having Gopher State One Call at the event to remind people to call. Loren will reach out to them. Marge suggested the board could make some of the phone calls. Loren will let Marge know if he needs that.



# MEETING MINUTES

## TREE BOARD

### 2. Date and Times

April 29<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Loren is working on getting tablets that can be used but if he can't get them, he will use the headsets that he has for communication. He plans to have 1 person at a table checking off the list and 2 people on each side of the line. Loren asked the tree board and council to be there at 9:15 AM.

### 3. Tree Selection

Loren Cota stated that he can't get a fruit tree this year. Plum trees are available but the plums are not edible. He said he also can't get an evergreen tree. He said they have enough Technie Arbor Viets but that is smaller. He would just as soon get a bigger tree but gave the board the option to go with the Technie. He added that he has enough Deciduous trees to give 4 away. He asked the board for direction on what species they want to give away at the Arbor Day celebration. Mike Bender stated the Arbor Viets get damaged when we get heavy snow. Marge supported the Technie and feels homeowners will prefer this. Nick stated he would prefer the 4 deciduous trees. Mike Bender stated he would also prefer the 4 deciduous as well. Stan supports the judgement but felt to have some sort of pine so it gives some flexibility. Loren said there weren't any pines available. Nick suggested a Spruce tree. Loren said he will prioritize Norway Spruce and then Black Hills Spruce after that.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### i. Spring Planting

#### 1. Dates & Times

May 6, 2023 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Lunch at 11:00 AM - 4-6 adults is desired to be present, arriving at 8:45.

Loren will try to have his crew do some prep work prior to the event, using an auger to dig the holes.

#### 2. Redo Discovery Center entrance

Marge expressed her support with the 2023 Spring Plantings be done on 40<sup>th</sup> St (Growing Shade Environmental Justice Area) and suggested they could move forward with the Discovery Project after the design phase, possibly 2024.



# MEETING MINUTES

## TREE BOARD

### 3. Growing shade Environmental Justice area

The Growing shade Environmental Justice area was referred to on a projected map. Loren stated the “green” icons are spaced 50 ft. apart so 29 trees can be planted on the road right of way on 40<sup>th</sup> St in front of the Section 8 Housing. Another ask of Loren is City Hall wants him to redo the native planting around the front doors at the Discovery Center. They want it to be a little lower and more inviting around the front door. They also want the planting around the flag pole. There are also some areas at Walton Park that could be redone. Loren’s preference is in the Environmental Justice Area but sought the advice of the board for which direction he should go. Marge asked Loren what his thoughts were at Walton Park. Loren said there is an Oak Tree removed from the Veteran’s Memorial. He thinks he could put a bunch of natives there. Along the Tot Lot, there is a row of planting that could be cleaned up. Marge said she had noticed that and wonders about planting trees around the lot. Loren’s response was there are rules about where the trees can be planted at the Tot Lot. He will need to check with the Park Superintendent. Marge thanked Loren for clarifying. Marge inquired if the City would need to purchase the trees? Per Loren, yes but the tree board has a budget and he used money from that budget to buy for the Spring Planting every year. He confirmed it would be a variety of trees. Loren added a lot of those trees could be part of his EAB program as every tree that gets cut down and if someone doesn’t want a replacement tree on their boulevard, he could plant it there. Marge asked where they would move to then when they eat? Loren hasn’t determined that yet. He stated there was plenty of parking on the 2 roads to the east, Gershwin & Goodwin and they could possibly go back to the Discovery Center to eat. Stan stated there is a park right across the street with possibly a shelter. He stated the county has in investment in this property suggested reaching out letting them know we are doing a planting project and maybe they would contribute some money and also get their blessing on the project. Loren hasn’t reached out to management yet but does plan on doing so. Stan found the site has a lot of green space compared to most affordable housing so the plantings will be a great addition and improve people’s quality of life. Nick inquired if there may be any issues with utilities in that area. Loren stated there may be. But wasn’t sure about power lines. They may need to work around some if there are any. Dallas pointed out there is a sidewalk. Loren confirmed and stated that it is a private sidewalk that is not in the right of way. He suggested Loren look into that. Loren took note.



# MEETING MINUTES

## TREE BOARD

### VI. OTHER

#### a. Commissioner Updates

Stan stated at the county board meeting today, the environmentalist announced Two projects worth sharing as they are consistent with what the tree board has done. One is a \$50,000 grant to do an Oak Savana in Lake Elmo Park. They plan to take out some trees that aren't native and replace them with Oaks which is what Washington County was a lot of at one time. The other was a \$22,000 grant at Pine Point, 22 acres of prairie restoration. He stated that he knows Loren keeps his eyes open for Grants. It might be harder for cities to get grants on smaller projects but it's one way to control costs. Stan thinks it is neat that the county keeps improving our larger parks on larger scale projects. The next thing Stan wanted to announce was his retirement in the next couple of months. He added it has been an honor to serve for the past 26 years. He plans to still be involved in Tree Board events. He is willing to be in a emeritus role if it helps the Tree Board.

Marge shared two updates: the first being the Water Shed District got a grant to do a tree inventory county wide. The second being the Master Gardner's received a small grant to gravel bed at the fairgrounds. The idea is to make a tree track at the fairgrounds planting diverse trees and educating the public about trees. There will be more info to come on those two grants.

Nick acknowledged the new member Mike Bender and asked him to share a bit. Mike Bender stated he had applied to the Tree Board last summer. Mike has 45 years in the Horticulture industry. He is retired now and wants to give back. Marge inquired about his experience in the industry. Mike stated he started out in landscaping and then moved into landscape design and sales. He then moved into management and managed a garden center, Park Nursery, which is now Hedberg Landscape. Then he spent 18 years at Baileys, in a management role.

#### b. Council Liaison Update(s)

Mayor Zabel stated the council finished the 2023 budget and property tax levy at the end of December. Noting staff was instrumental in making that happen. He stated January has been a challenging month for snow operations at Public Works. The city continues to express 3 ways that residents can help our crews out: 1 – Abide by the winter parking restrictions. 2 – Dig out around fire hydrants. 3 – Clean snow and ice round storm drains.

Development continues at a robust pace in Oakdale. The approved projects are: 4 Front Campus (Willowbrooke development) and a vacant Lot north of Hy-Vee.

Mike asked if Oakdale has am “adopt a drain program”. Residents are invited to participate. There are educational videos posted on the cities You Tube page on how they can help.



# MEETING MINUTES

## TREE BOARD

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Stan to adjourn the regular meeting of the tree board.

Ayes 8

Abstain 0

Nays 0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ritchie, Recording Secretary

Link to YouTube recording of the [January 17, 2023](#) Tree Board Meeting: