



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Tree Board

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Monday, October 23, 2023

3:45 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Lyman
Anderson building 5201 Fen Oak Dr; Meeting Room
Drumlin: attend virtually via Zoom

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Meeting Room Drumlin: attend virtually via Zoom

A. Call To Order

Present 4 - JAY WEISS, LAURA WYATT, MATT NOONE, and Supervisor CATHY BRODBECK

Absent 3 - Supervisor MICHELE RITT, CORY RICH, and CRAIG KLINKE

Also present Anna Healey, Tedward Erker, Brian Wahl, Adam Alves, Johnson

B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#) 09.19.2023 MINUTES TREEBOARD POLICY

[MIN-340](#)

Attachments: [2023 MIN-340](#)

A motion was made by WEISS, seconded by WYATT, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 4-0.

C. Presentations

a. Anna Healey spoke about her experience working towards implementing a successful Tree Preservation plan for the City of Fitchburg. She started with 6 volunteers. Advocated with mayor and formed a Tree Advisory Commission (TAC). It is a standard committee from park commission, got an alder on committee. Tree Advisory Commission formed to get tree preservation ordinances from the TAC in the comprehensive plan. Looked at local and national ordinances as models. Included city attorney in process. Also talked to plan commission, business development ad hoc and housing. Different drafts got feedback from different committees internally. Also got external feedback from various entities. Ordinance that the TAC needs to be involved asap in new development, has to be a survey of desirable trees in development plan to protect them and save as many trees as can. During construction companies can't run over roots, has to be meaningful tree preservation. Then the developer has to go to the plan commission with their plan to save the trees. The TAC got trees on the radar and in the planning process: it took 3 years. TAC works with developers to ID trees and develop the plan.

b. New Tree Board member and recent applicant introductions Cathy Brodbeck is now a Board member. She worked at MG&E as an arborist. She has worked with the City of Portage planning commission and is working now with village of Dane. WAA member. Tedward Erker has applied. He submitted application research on buckthorn worked for UW as a student. Now working with remote sensing, trees and utilities, etc.

D. Team Building

1. Introduction (Matt)
2. Break out session - pair up, spend 5 minutes talking with a fellow tree board member.
 - a. Topic – learn 3 things about your partner. Next month – we choose a different partner and a different topic.

E. Action Items

1. *Create a Tree Board Operating Agreement This will be an evolving agreement between board members, that can help our team create an environment in how we communicate and operate. Goals are to increase effectiveness, stay on topic, strive to keep meeting in allocated time, off topic parking lot ideas can be revisited if time later, work together to stay focused*

- *Action-oriented agenda items: “decide, brainstorm, weigh in on” – shift from reporting and information sharing to engaging*
- *Be deliberately engaged*
- *All members of the board feel valued and respected*
- *Permission to be unpolished*
- *Communicate the ask*
- *Stay on topic, or put the idea in the parking lot to be discussed later or later in the meeting if time allows*
- *Hear from everyone*
- *Make new members feel welcome*
- *Follow up on request/tasks*
- *Start on time/end on time*

2. *Finalize and vote on our mission and vision statements (Adam leads facilitation).*

a. *Draft Mission Statement: “Advocating for equitable healthy community forests in Dane County” Weiss motions to approve draft mission statement, Brodbeck seconds, motion passes unanimously*

b. *Draft Vision Statement: “Increase canopy cover and healthy community forests” Brodbeck motions to approve draft vision statement, Wyatt seconds, motion passes unanimously*

c. *Finalize and vote on our goals that the Tree Board will operate under*
Draft Goals:

1. *Goal: Increase/promote equitable tree canopy*
2. *Goal: Support tree preservation*
3. *Goal: Support forestry careers and opportunities*
4. *Goal: Advocate and support Dane County Forestry Programs*
5. *Goal: Increase education/knowledge about trees*

Motion by Weiss to approve Goals with ‘Forester’ changed to ‘Forestry’, Brodbeck seconds, modified goals pass unanimously

3. *TCC potential outreach project funding for Heritage Trees project and Urban Tree Alliance project (Matt leads discussion)*

4. *Bundle Proposal to spend the remainder of Tree Board budget (\$1,600). in future maybe mini-grant program for our discretionary funds in the interest of fairness, create group to develop the process and transparency*

a. *Purchase monument and dedication of 2-3 of Significant Community Trees.*

Purpose of project to recognize and preserve trees in communities.

1. *About 200-300 for a quality monument. How should this award be communicated to public. Want to make sure are working with communities, municipalities and community foresters, collaborate with them. Transparency of process with clear criteria is important. Write procedures and policies and vote on it to move forward. Tree Board will write and send a letter in support of retaining a tree and calling it a historic tree. Suggestion to add the list of historic trees in Dane County to the Tree Board website.*

a. *Motion to retain a historic tree in Shorewood Hills that is threatened by a sewerage district project. Weiss motions that the Tree Board send a letter to preserve the swamp white oak to Shorewood Hills, utility company or sewer district. Brodbeck seconds, motion passes unanimously.*

b. Brodbeck motions to create an Ad Hoc committee to develop policies and procedures to recognize significant community trees. Weiss seconds, motion passes unanimously. Brodbeck, Alves and Noone volunteer for the Ad Hoc committee.

b. Purchase of 300 Heritage Trees from DNR Boscobel nursery for use in communities by community members (\$86/100 trees). Noone will check if this can be done legally. If not, the funding reverts to the school Heritage Oak project.

c. Remainder of any funding spent on establishing a pilot project educational heritage tree growing bed at Schenk Elementary and Frank Allis School

1. Follow through with Heritage Oak project. Feedback from public wanting acorns and/or seedlings, trees from Boscobel DNR nursery, to help distribute them also working with TCC to distribute, growing trees at schools, Schenk, Frank Allis, Nuestro Mundo and replicate beds at the Extension Office. These schools are diverse and have low income school. Mechanisms and procedures to be developed. Schools listed are on board with the tree beds.

2. Weiss makes a Motion for sub-committee to form to develop mechanisms and procedures and to support item C from bundle proposal. Brodbeck seconds motion passes unanimously

5. Nomination of a specific Significant Community Tree to dedicate a monument to

a. Identify board members to focus on selecting and dedicating a Significant Community Tree Monument. No volunteers at this time.

F. Reports to Committee

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

a. Finalize and vote on our Goal Priorities using facilitation techniques, facilitation techniques to brainstorm on Heritage Tree distribution, website status, Wyatt asks for a future item to establish a goal for next year that budget discussions begin in March. Can be written into objectives. Finalize priorities for 2024.

b. November 21, December 19 last dates in 2023 for meetings

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

\$3 million IRA grant received by Dane County Forestry tree care crew Operation Fresh Start and TCC to plant and maintain trees, hire additional staff, \$100,000 a year for tree purchases. City of Madison looking for TB rep to replace Klinke as the hour for meeting does not work with his schedule.

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

J. Adjourn

A motion was made by WEISS, seconded by WYATT, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Johnson, pending board approval.