



# 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?*

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Tuesday, April 19, 2022

3:45 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting: See top of agenda for  
instructions on how to join the webinar or call in by  
phone.

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#### A. Call To Order

- Present** 10 - ADAM HELMINIAK, Supervisor MICHELE RITT, JAY WEISS, LAURA WYATT,  
ADAM ALVES, JAEDAN FESTGE, BRIAN WAHL, ALEX MODERHOCK,  
MCKINZIE MYSZKA, and MATT NOONE
- Absent** 1 - MARLA EDDY

*Also Present: Christina Dennis, Adam Alves, Jaedan Festge, Howard Veregen, Brian  
Wahl, Lisa Johnson*

**A motion was made by HELMINIAK, seconded by MYSZKA, that the Presentations  
be moved to the top of the agenda. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

**B. Presentations**

*ALVES spoke on tree equity as relates to Dane County Parks. Their major priority is to reduce liability/increase tree safety in parks and to increase access to parks. Studies show higher median income is correlated with more green space and canopy cover: larger properties have larger yards and usually, more green space and plantings in medians. High-density housing areas have fewer trees, narrower medians. Redlining historically also correlates with lower income and less green space and access to parks. Its legacy still exists. Parks looked at social vulnerability index across Dane County and identified two areas northside and some southside, that need improved access. Allied Drive by Cannonball path is underutilized, could add amenities. Other Parks projects to address these issues include adding fruit trees to county lands to help with food insecurity – Lakeview Hills, 30% of residents on SNAP, foodstamps. Parks programs for youth outreach, include various events and partnering via MOU with Fresh Start on a pre-apprenticeship program, job shadowing at Parks, career workshops, etc. In 2019 Parks began an arborist college program at Madison College, 1 year apprenticeship, 2 year associate. When asked about policy implications, ALVES said from a tree perspective, access to canopy cover in high-density housing there is currently no requirement to plant or policy to incentivize tree planting there on non-public land. WAHL suggests a requirement for increase in width for narrow terraces, also for medians for municipal tree planting, soil requirements may be areas the Tree Board Policy Work Group can work on.*

[2022  
PRES-010](#)

Equity in Forestry

**Attachments:** [Equity in forestry](#)

**C. Consideration of Minutes**

[2022  
MIN-006](#)

2022 MIN-006

**Attachments:** [2022 MIN-006](#)

**A motion was made by MODERHOCK, seconded by MYSZKA, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 7-0.**

## D. Discussion Items

1. Discuss work group organization and meeting schedule: Outreach Work Group and Annual Events Work Group (AEWG) met. AEWG asked if grants are 'events' or should they be in another work group. Discussion concluded that whatever work group's charge is the closest match for any particular grant, should take responsibility on a case by case basis. Agenda item to review grants in May. Outreach Work Group met, will start with a website focus, received link to CMS training, all got invitations for CMS, for next meeting will review website for changes.

2. Review budget and potential projects for spending \$4,000 2022 budget plus a carryover from last year of \$1,026 for PSAs. For projects, ALVES suggests a fall tree planting. RITT will check if Tree Board funds can be used on private or non-municipal land.

3. Dane County Oak inventory – Walter Scott inventoried in 1800's oaks by capitol, 2001 Allison inventoried. Howard Veregin WI State Cartographer in 2022 came across project, thinks now is a good time to re-inventory, asked if Tree Board was interested in a role. State Cartography Office attached to Geography Dept at UW, outreach group at UW, supports geospatial data collection. From the map, some oaks are approaching 250 years old. By using crowdsourcing and developing apps the map could be updated, have volunteers do measurements. NOONE noted this fits with the Tree Board's and Tree Canopy Group's missions to prioritize tree maintenance and preservation. Discussion re trees on private property. Suggestions include commercial industry, neighborhood associations, master gardeners. Could do outreach via press release or Facebook, NextDoor posts

4. PSAs – what has been decided on to send to Audacy Johnson and EDDY have not yet met to discuss.

5. Discuss potential face-to-face meetings: RITT said County rules currently say June may be able to do in-person. Could plan to meet elsewhere. May be able to do hybrid meetings. RITT will update in June.

**A motion was made by NOONE, seconded by MODERHOCK, to move discussion item 6 to next talking point. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

## E. Reports to Committee

6. Tree Canopy Work Group report (Johnson) Thriving Earth Partnership 'grant' connects group with a UW researcher to design projects on measuring factors to create a formula to prioritize where trees are most needed based on a variety of factors, progress on website getting up and running, tree planting event in Cambridge

7. Tree Planting event in Cambridge (Weiss): Municipality had 90 street and park trees to plant and after losing staff did not have a way to do it. Tree Canopy group and ALVES helped WEISS get volunteers. They planted 82 trees in 2.5 hours. Included 20 trees on private property owned by vulnerable populations in areas where EAB killed trees and homeowners did not have funds to replace them. Had local press coverage. Built good relations with the community. WYATT suggests it as a feature story for Arbor Day.

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*May 17 2022, Jun 21 2022, July 19 2022, August 16 2022, Sept 20 2022, October 25 2022, November 22 2022, no December meeting*

**G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

*ALVES noted an Earth Day event at the zoo on Saturday April 23 9-2 tree giveaway*

**H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law**

**I. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by MYSZKA, seconded by WEISS, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.**