



# 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?*

---

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

3:45 PM

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

---

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

#### A. Call To Order

**Present** 7 - Supervisor MICHELE RITT, JAY WEISS, LAURA WYATT, MATT NOONE, CORY RICH, TIERNEY BOCSI, and TEDWARD ERKER  
**Excused** 1 - CATHY BRODBECK

*Also present: Brian Wahl, Lisa Johnson, Alex Desmidt*

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2024](#) 04.16.2024 MINUTES TREEBOARD  
[MIN-056](#)

**Attachments:** [2024 MIN-056](#)

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

### C. Tree Board Operating Agreement

1. *Have a common understanding of Acronyms. CARPC, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission, assists regional governments with planning efforts and assists DNR with water quality management. OFS, Operation Fresh Start, assisting youth with social barriers obtain work experience and education. TCC, Tree Canopy Collaborative, a diverse group of professionals whose goal is to increase tree Canopy. WAA, Wisconsin Arborists Association. DCTB, Dane County Tree Board.*

2. *This will be an evolving agreement between board members, that can help our team create an environment in how we communicate and operate. • 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 • Hear from everyone • Make new members feel welcome • Follow up on request/tasks (accountable) • Start on time / end on time • Review TB Minutes prior to TB Meetings*

### D. Project & General Updates

1. *Party for The Planet at Zoo, gave away the rest of the 600 Heritage Trees. Collected addresses for surveying people who will plant them. Good exposure. A lot interest in the Heritage Oaks. Town of Cottage Grove and Village of CG also took oak seedlings.*

## E. Discussion Item

1. *Internal Dane County Tree Preservation Resolution - - Invited guest speaker Alex Desmidt. Desmidt. DC Parks and open space plan is being updated throughout 2024. It will be written to encompass 2025 to 2030 after adoption by County Board. 2024 spring and summer collect public and governmental unit and other stakeholder input, fall put together, for recommendations to enact in spring 2025. It is a County-wide vision of what Parks should achieve through park lands, resource protection, facilities. Policies and practices review. 18,000 acres; largest park system in WI. Some areas more forested, others more developed. Tree preservation policy – how to include. Checked current policies. Chapter 5 Ag, Natural and Cultural resources: DCTB is included, so already a stakeholder with recognized standing. County Comprehensive Plan was enacted in 2007. Some periodic updates to certain sections, whole document not updated. Just updated cultural resources section regarding zoning, and cultural resource management. DCTB wants to know how to get tree preservation resolution to be included across different units in County gov't. May be best in Comprehensive Plan. Also climate action plan, may be avenues to add tree preservation and increased canopy. Resolution, county board takes action on. Parks and Open space have priorities and policies for parks management, ex. historic sites priorities and management, development, how to get to those goals. Overarching goals to manage resources appropriately. Recommendation could be update plan from protecting water to adding protecting trees and value of trees. DCTB could provide input on the open space plan. Ordinance level actions have enforcement protocols (ex. permits). May be financial impact or stoppage of work with enforcement. Need to review plans, as a group make recommendations and create verbiage. How to get into other departments through county comprehensive plan. A land use or zoning tool? Move from Open space plan to comprehensive plan.*

2. *DCTB application to The Bock Foundation Grant supporting Tree Preservation Model Ordinance. Application due May 31, funds not received until fall. Is about Tree protection and preserving old growth trees. Idea to apply and if funded, contract out an entity like CARPC to run listening sessions with community members, create a model ordinance we can recommend and endorse and maybe OECC would endorse. We can attend listening sessions, advise and have final say.*

3. *Tree Board Work Group rules NOONE is saying work groups are not sustainable with people needing to be here. Walking quorum problem when there are only 4 members. Groups are so small it is hard to avoid. Is this an effective use of time? Should work groups be dissolved?*

## F. Action Items

1. *Additional TB purchases (place holder)*

2. *Internal Dane County Tree Preservation Resolution*

3. *DCTB Application to the Bock Foundation WYATT authorize NOONE to finish application for grant and submit it. Second by Rich. MOTION PASSES. Can be tweaked by different municipalities. Best management practices along with verbiage, how to use and implement? Not boilerplate but how to involve stakeholders in communities.*

**A motion was made by WYATT, seconded by RICH, that authorized that NOONE to finish application for grant and submit it be approved. The motion carried unanimously.**

*4. TB recommendation of TB applicant. Tabled for now.*

**G. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

*June 18th 2024? (NOONE is out of town) NOONE will send a Doodle poll*

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

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

**J. Adjourn**

**A motion was made by ERKER, seconded by BOCSI, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa Johnson, pending board approval*