



# 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, December 19, 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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**Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the Lyman Anderson building 5201 Fen Oak Dr;  
Meeting Room Drumlin: attend virtually via Zoom**

#### A. Call To Order

**Present** 7 - Supervisor MICHELE RITT, JAY WEISS, LAURA WYATT, MATT NOONE, CORY RICH, CRAIG KLINKE, and CATHY BRODBECK

*a. Also Present: Lisa Johnson, Adam Alves, Brian Wahl, Tedward Erker, Tierney Bosci*

#### B. Consideration of Minutes

[2023](#)  
[MIN-428](#)

11.21.2023 MINUTES TREEBOARD POLICY

**Attachments:** [2023 MIN-428](#)

A motion was made by WEISS, seconded by BRODBECK, that the Minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote 6-0.

#### C. Tree Board Operating Agreement

1. Create a Tree Board Operating Agreement (Matt leads). 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
- Start on time / end on time
- Review TB Minutes prior to TB Meetings

## D. Project & General Updates

1. *Tree Board Membership Update report: Tierney Bosci and Tedward Erker should be approved for Board membership in 6 weeks, has passed through the committees. Introduction of pending new members: Erker got a masters degree in forestry in UW in 2013. In 2020 got a PhD working on urban trees, creating maps of trees in WI. He now runs statistics and produces maps of trees near power lines for a utility company. Bosci is currently a PhD student in UW-Madison Forest and Wildlife Ecology Dept. she has a forestry focus around private-rural landowners. Her Masters degree centered on nursery production systems for oaks.*
2. *Student Advisory Tree Board position: Discussed how and where to post. Johnson will check if this can be done with Dane County Admin. Proposed 1 year term, determine their role, what are we giving them, next meeting NOONE will present a position description.*
3. *Letter for Village of Shorewood Hills swamp white oak: Sent letter to Shorewood Hills. The Project Manager sent back a positive response; they are trying to preserve the Heritage Tree.*
4. *Significant Community Tree Program: Erker had an idea regarding selection of Community Trees with public input to foster community engagement. There is a 'Remarkable Trees of Pittsburgh' program that is similar to the Dane county Tree Board concept. It has 5 categories for selection. The community can submit online and there is a ranking or voting by the public. It could be a good engagement strategy. The Tree Board is in a position to capture stories of trees through crowdsourcing that often get lost. Good PR value as well, and accomplishes the Board's tree protection and preservation goals, as well as education about trees.*

## E. Action Items

1. *Should the Tree Board reinstate the Policy Workgroup or the Tree Board Outreach Workgroup. The workgroup is set to sunset 12/31/24; would need a resolution to restore. Wahl said a good idea if is something to work on. Alves said work groups could take on tree preservation from the objectives list. Functions as ad hoc, minutes are not needed, reports would be made back to main group. Must avoid walking quorum, so only up to 4 members, (but advisors don't count in the total if members of the work group). WYATT says should review work groups and purpose/objective since it is legally recorded as a resolution. Johnson will print out the ordinance of three groups RES 2021-334) so the board can determine whether they need amending. Will decide how objectives fit into the work groups in the next meeting.*

**A motion was made by WEISS, seconded by RICH, that the Tree Board adopt objectives as worded below be approved. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.**

2. Tree Board Objective Prioritization

1. Goal: Increase/promote equitable tree canopy

a. Objective: support IRA grant for tree planting.

2. Goal: Support tree preservation

a. Objective: Develop tree preservation resolution for county properties, that can be used as a model for other communities

3. Goal: Support forestry careers and opportunities

a. Objective Collaborate with community organizations to support forestry careers. Support county relationships with vocational training programs. Add an advisory Tree Board position for student member.

4. Goal: Advocate and support Dane County Forestry Programs

a. Objective: Advocate for funding levels that meet Tree City USA requirements, \$2 per person in the county (Notes: \$2 per person needed for Tree City USA status – county level funds, everything else through a grant. The County has added park lands with more trees while staffing is static. They plant 2000-4000 trees annually. Increase funding level for staffing, increase staffing level. City of Madison has many more arborists per tree than county arborists. County is also responsible for some co-managed state lands, some city lands. This goal needs more refining.)

5. Goal: Increase education/knowledge about trees

a. Objective: Coordinate with communities and TCC on educational materials for children and adults. Objective: Develop a tree related educational network to explore opportunities, and leverage support for tree related education

3. Tree Preservation Policy first steps and discussion      Discussion postponed till next meeting

**F. Future Meeting Items and Dates**

3:45-4:45 January 16th 2024; February 20, 2024; March 20, 2024; April 16, 2024; May 21, 2024; June 18, 2024; July 16, 2024; August 20, 2024; September 17, 2024; October 15, 2024; November 19, 2024; December 17, 2024.

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

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

**I. Adjourn**

A motion was made by BRODBECK, seconded by RICH, that the Meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Matt Noone, pending board approval