



Council Committee Memorandum

TO: Joint Council Committee
THROUGH: Tim Murray, City Administrator
FROM: Paul J. Peanasky, Parks & Recreation Director
 Mark Duchene, Director of Engineering
 Travis Block, Public Works Director
MEETING DATE: April 16, 2019
SUBJECT: Boulevard Tree Planting Program

Discussion:

Over the years, a large number of trees in the boulevards in Faribault have been lost due to storms, have been cut down, will be infested (EAB) or may have never been planted. The idea behind the boulevard tree program is to fill in boulevards around town and encourage planting of new and replacement trees. This would help aid the beauty of our streetscapes. It would also help us in maintaining our tree City USA status as well as our Green Step Cities Program.

We are proposing a plan where we contact landowners on designated streets and plant replacement trees in order to beautify our streetscapes. We would plan to contact landowners starting with some of our Municipal State Aid (MSA) streets and begin in those areas. We would like to work with approximately 60 trees annually for this program. Annual cost would be approximately \$25,000. During discussions, we discovered several sources of financing for this project. We could use MSA funding if trees are on MSA roads. We could also use some funding from the sale of the armory, street improvement funds or other local funds.

While looking into this program, we reviewed programs in six different communities and one park system. The communities were North Mankato, Farmington, St. Paul, Roseville, New Ulm, Apple Valley and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Each of these communities have a current boulevard system in place and all six vary in the way that they carry out the program. Options include everything from the City purchasing and planting trees to reimbursement to homeowners that plant trees themselves. We propose the City purchase and plant the trees.

As part of the program, we felt we needed to identify priority areas/streets on which to start the program. We recommend to start on the following streets: 7th Street NW, 2nd Avenue NW, and Willow Street; and then continue on MSA streets before moving to other areas of town. We would contact property owners to notify them of the proposed tree plantings, determine if there is any species preference, and to identify any concerns they may have. We recommend that trees planted need to be ones that are native to our location, which would include Elm – Disease resistant varieties; Linden – American and Sentry varieties; Oak – Bur, Swamp White, White, Red; Ginkgo – Male, non-fruit varieties; Hackberry; Honey Locust; and Serviceberry. We plan to go with 3-4 inch caliper trees so the trees are more mature and sturdy.

The City would have the right to trim trees along the boulevards. We will also want to update our tree ordinance. Updates include items such as parts of our ordinance that require trees to be at least 10 feet behind the curb and other parts of the ordinance say three (3) feet, removal of diseased trees instead of specifying specific tree diseases (eg. dutch elm). We would need to determine spacing, and new developments would not be eligible, only established areas.

If possible, we would like to begin this program this fall with fall plantings. Trees could be bid out with our parks tree planting program to get the best prices.

Attachments:

- None