



# AGENDA

## Tree Board

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 5:00 PM  
City Hall – Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. COUNCIL UPDATE
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting March 15, 2022
6. OPEN FORUM
7. OLD BUSINESS
  - a) Spring Planting 2022 / Jane Klein Memorial
    - a. Spring Planting discussion; good, bad, improvements
    - b. Has anybody heard any movement from Garden Club, City Council, etc.?
  - b) Arbor Day 2022 / Water bags
    - a. Good, bad, improvements discussion
    - b. Dropping water bag sales for now.
  - c) Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Removal Update (City Forester)
    - a. Trees removed (city/contractor)
    - b. Stump grounding (contractor)
    - c. Replacement Tree planting
8. NEW BUSINESS
  - a) 2022 Fall Buckthorn removal scheduling and site location discussion
  - b) 2023 Spring planting site location discussion
9. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
10. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS
11. ADJOURNMENT

**The next regular Tree Board meeting will be held  
September 20, 2022, 5:00 PM, City Hall Council Chambers**

**REGULAR MEETING  
OAKDALE TREE BOARD  
City of Oakdale  
MARCH 15, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Tree Board of the City of Oakdale was held Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at the Oakdale City Hall, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Sagstetter at 5:00pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CALL OF ROLL**

Vice Chair: Marge Sagstetter

Members: Cathie Schreifels  
Glen Giacoletto  
Mike Saarela  
Dallas Pierson

Absent: Nick Kantola  
Stan Karwoski

Also Present: Loren Cota, City Forester  
Deb Moeller, Washington County Master Gardener Liaison  
University of Minnesota student, Faith  
University of Minnesota student, Henry Dudley

Quorum Present: YES  NO

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER SCHREIFELS AND SECONDED BY MEMBER GIACOLETTO TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2022.**

**Ayes 4 Abstain 1 (Member Pierson)**

**Nays 0 Motion Carried**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway

Chair Sagstetter noted she could not find information on the city website. Mr. Cota stated final tree selection was needed before posting and asked board for approval. It can be posted as soon as tomorrow but wants to speak to the Communications Director about water bags first.

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In response to Vice Chair Sagstetter's question regarding the financial aspect of selling water bags, Mr. Cota replied he believes approval is needed first before offering bags and collecting money. He will follow up with Administration.

In response to Member Pierson's question if bags need to be sold at Arbor Day Tree Giveaway or could they be sold alone, Vice Chair Sagstetter stated originally it was a convenience for residents to pick up a bag when they pick up trees.

Board unanimously agreed to post Arbor Day Tree Giveaway registrations without the option of bag. Mr. Cota noted the pickup time for the giveaway is 9:30-11:30am on Saturday, April 30.

### Spring Planting

Mr. Cota is working on a design of native plants for two planters, a rose bed and around the parking lot north of City Hall between road and parking lot. Plans are to plant Serviceberry trees and possibly remove apple and dogwood trees. 50-75 students from Tartan High School National Honor Society are scheduled to volunteer. Cathie Schreifels will provide nametags for the event. Walton North pavilion is reserved for lunch.

In response to Vice Chair Sagstetter's question if lunch could be catered, Mr. Cota replied it is possible and if time allows, he will check prices and budget. Ms. Sagstetter offered to help with calls. Mr. Cota noted the date for the Spring Planting is Saturday, May 14, 9-12pm.

### Tree Preservation Ordinance

Mr. Cota summarized the following changes to the ordinance:

*Section 22.3, Article 9 - The plan should remove no more than 25% of the total number of significant trees and significant woodlands which were existing prior to the preliminary plat as a result of the following construction activities, approved by the city as a part of a preliminary plat:*

- (a) Site grading.
- (b) Installation of public utilities including sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water, natural gas, electrical service, and cable TV.
- (c) Construction of public streets.
- (d) Construction/grading of drainageways.
- (e) Filling of any area.
- (f) Any other activity within the construction area.

*Section 22.3, Article 10 - Significant trees and significant woodlands may be removed on individual lots for site grading, utility hook-ups, buildings, parking lots, driveways, storage areas, recreational areas, private streets, or similar site improvements. Significant trees and significant woodlands*

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*removal shall be in accordance with the city-approved tree preservation plan. The plan should remove no more than 30% of the total significant trees and significant woodlands that existed prior to the preliminary plat on individual lots in completing these site improvements. Where practical difficulties or practical hardships result from strict compliance with the provisions of this paragraph, city staff may permit the removal of up to an additional 5% of the significant trees and significant woodlands without requiring a variance approved by the City Council.*

The above changes are under the Developer heading. Mr. Cota provided possible scenarios:

1. If 25% of trees are removed from a site, but individual lots have no trees removed, 30% could still be removed from the lot.
2. If individual lot has 20% of trees removed, up to an additional 15% more can be removed before reaching the replacement schedule.

In response to Vice Chair Sagstetter's question how the trees are counted, Mr. Cota replied the city requires the developer to hire a forestry company to inventory all significant trees on the site. Mr. Cota or his crew will ground truth area to confirm. Recently, the Willowbrooke Development redirected walking paths saved Oak trees performing a ground truth.

In response to Vice Chair Sagstetter's asking if there is a proposal to change the ordinance, Mr. Cota responded there are no conflicts, he is providing information and answering questions from the last meeting.

In response to Member Giacoletto's question asking if there are repercussions for exceeding the limits, Mr. Cota stated it is required to have an escrow when presenting the tree preservation plan to apply for a building or development permit. The cost is \$1000 at the individual lot level and a higher level is 150% of the cost of the replacement trees. Mr. Cota shared an example of a situation in which he helped the engineers calculate an escrow of almost \$500,000 so there is incentive to do the right thing and follow the tree preservation plan.

*Section 22.4, Article 6 - Significant tree and significant woodlands removal shall be in accordance with the city approved Tree Preservation Plan for the lot. The plan should remove no more than 20% of the total number of significant trees and significant woodlands that existed upon the lot prior to the issuance of the building permit. Where practical difficulties or practical hardships result from strict compliance with the provisions of this paragraph, the city staff may permit the removal of up to an additional 5% of the significant tree and significant woodlands without requiring a variance approval by the City Council.*

Sec. 22-06. Significant Tree Replacement.

*Type of Replacement Trees.*

*Replacement trees shall be of a species similar to the trees which are lost or removed and shall include those species and diversity as determined by City Council resolution.*

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Mr. Cota believes it is possible to recommend a specific tree to City Council and stated he has been asked if he has a recommended species list, which he does not, but encourages people to plant native, non-cultivar species. At times, cultivars are better suited for the site conditions so he does not want to exclude them.

Vice Chair Sagstetter suggested changing ordinance to reflect “native plants should be first choice and nativar or cultivar as second choice.” Mr. Cota agreed and will present the change to City Council for amendment.

Mr. Cota noted the following and suggested Tree Board look over ordinance one more time before presenting to council for approval.

- Job duties are sufficient as ordinance mentions a City Forester.
- Licensing can be moved to the Licensing Section of the ordinance.

Mr. Cota mentioned Oakdale has one of the more comprehensive Tree Preservation Ordinances in the metro area with similar sized cities.

Per Vice Chair Sagstetter, the Tree Preservation Ordinance discussion is tabled until further notice.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Standard Operating Policy

Mr. Cota noted term endings for Nick Kantola and Mike Saarela are June 30, 2022. It is required to give members 60-day notice for reappointment.

In response to Vice Chair Sagstetter question regarding eligibility and timeline for reappointment, Mr. Cota responded he will contact members 60 days prior but would need to read the policy on requirements.

Member Pierson stated information is found in the Ordinance, Section 7.0, Reappointments of Seated Board Members and Commissioners.

Mr. Cota mentioned it is not a requirement of the Tree Board to live in Oakdale, but City Council prefers the board be predominately Oakdale residents.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES/FORESTRY DIVISION UPDATE**

### Member Updates

No updates.

### Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Removal Program

Mr. Cota stated currently 22 trees were removed using funds from the grant program. 150 trees were identified from plow routes and over half show evidence of EAB. 24 trees will be contracted

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for removal. Stump grinding will also be contracted and Mr. Cota is hoping it can be done this spring and replanting immediately after. If not possible to replant in spring it will be done in fall.

In response to Member Pierson's question regarding the EAB treatment program, Mr. Cota responded City Council has renewed the program with Rainbow Treecare for \$6.70 per diameter inch (4 ½' above ground). With so many trees having EAB, residents may need to have trees reassessed for quote. Link to Rainbow Treecare is on city website under Forestry.

Forestry Job Description

Mr. Cota explained additional job duties in detail:

- Structural Pruning
- Clearance Pruning
- Snow Removal
- Storm Sewer Cleaning

Vice Chair Sagstetter provided an update on the Tree Steward program and mentioned the Tree Steward training at the University of Minnesota in February was canceled but hopes to reschedule in fall. Anyone interested in learning structural pruning may contact Marge Sagstetter. First event is at Lake Elmo Park Reserve on Thursday, March 17. Pruning is done in March and August.

Council Liaison Update

No update.

**OPEN FORUM**

Henry Dudley, University of Minnesota student, asked a question for a student watching tonight's meeting on YouTube. In response to the question what the long-term goal for Oakdale is over the next 10-20 years with climate change and the expected population growth, Mr. Cota replied the current forestry plan does not address it. Plans are to update the current plan, which are starting with the EAB plan, this spring as part of the \$100,000 DNR grant. Plans are to update the total plan in near future. Regarding climate change, they will do the best they can.

Member Pierson stated the city website has the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and there are sections that address both issues.

In response to Mr. Dudley asking if there is a guideline with current plantings where we follow a specific genus, Mr. Cota responded it is addressed in the forestry plan and believes the city follows the 20/15/5 rule.

Mr. Dudley asked if a resident who benefits from a boulevard tree wants to treat/remove an Ash tree with EAB, does the city pay for removal? Mr. Cota noted the city has a duty of care to make sure trees are not hazardous but homeowners are required to maintain yards to back of curb which

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makes boulevard trees a shared responsibility. This allows residents to treat boulevard trees that are not being treated by city under their grading system.

Mr. Dudley commented how impressed he is with the Tree Preservation Ordinance

In response to Member Saarela's question if there is a way to track trees that are privately and publicly removed and privately and publicly planted (canopy coverage), Mr. Cota replied Met Council has a website called Growing Shade which shows canopy coverage in your area and believes Oakdale is at 38% which is greater than the average for metro area. Boulevard and park tree removals and planted trees are tracked but not buckthorn replacements. Oakdale plants more trees than are removed. Remote sensing is now used for identifying trees and coverage. Washington County recently contacted Oakdale for data and will keep Mr. Cota updated. Vice Chair Sagstetter mentioned working with the county, or setting our own goal for canopy coverage.

University of Minnesota student, Faith, spoke on behalf of a student watching tonight's meeting on YouTube. In response to the question asking if there are any concerns with aesthetically pleasing and/or invasive species going into the Willowbrooke Development, Mr. Cota replied he has no concerns and there are actually many Cottonwood trees in development. He frequently receives calls from residents asking if Cottonwoods can be trimmed or removed from city land. The Forestry department evaluates trees and does necessary trimming or removing if hazardous. Native trees are preferred but all trees are welcome and Mr. Cota works with developers and homeowners for the best options.

**NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS/DATE**

**Next Oakdale Tree Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 5pm.**

The following items will be included on the June agenda:  
No discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MEMBER PIERSON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER GIACOLETTO TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TREE BOARD AT 5:52 P.M.**

**Ayes 5                      Abstain 0**  
**Nays 0                      Motion Carried**

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Buhl, Recording Secretary

2022 volunteer buckthorn removal proposed site

