

The regular meeting of the Tree Board of the City of Seward, Nebraska was held on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Seward Memorial Library, (Main Level Conference Room), 233 S 5th St, Seward, which meeting will be open to the public. Present: Gregg Einspahr, Charles Matzke, and Thomas Suhr. Absent: Larry Goldsmith & Ken Schmieding. Others in Attendance: Bob Miers & Rich Wergin

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof by posting in the following places" City Hall, Civic Center and Seward Public Library. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were while convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

1. Election of officers – Discussion/Action

Motion: Elect Thomas Suhr as Chairman and Secretary of the Board.

Moved by Einspahr, second by Matzke

Aye: Einspahr, Matzke, Suhr

Nay: None

Absent: Goldsmith, Schmieding - Motion carried.

2. Discussion of possible trees for removal.

Street tree at 745 N Columbia.

Motion: Allow homeowner to remove tree.

Moved by Suhr, second by Einspahr

Aye: Einspahr, Matzke, Suhr

Nay: None

Absent: Goldsmith, Schmieding - Motion carried.

3. Discussion of a Re-leaf program marketing plan.

The city of Seward is facing a concerning loss of its tree canopy. This is primarily attributed to the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer, severe weather, utilities, and many other factors. This decline in the city's tree canopy poses a pressing concern for both its residents and the environment. Trees play a vital role in providing shade, purifying the air, reducing urban heat island effects, and enhancing the overall quality of life. Additionally, a thriving tree canopy aids in combatting climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide and supporting local biodiversity.

Seward is losing more trees in its canopy every year than are currently being planted. The Re-Leaf program is the perfect tool to allow us to protect and restore our urban forest. This discussion is to be aware of upcoming "marketing" plans make residents more aware of the re-leaf program. Some thoughts to reach the public are as follows:

- Social Media/Newspaper promoting awareness of the Emerald Ash Borer and its current trajectory.
- Social Media/Newspaper Promoting the Re-leaf Program
- Identify "Tree Deserts" within the city of Seward and do direct one on one notices.

4. Budget Discussion

Indicated that a portion of the Tree Board budget goes to local Emerald Ash Borer Projects.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-Suggestions/Recommendations from Board

None

6. CONSENT ITEMS – Minutes (January 11, 2022 & July 12, 2022)

Motion: Approve Minutes (July 11, 2023).

Moved by Suhr, second by Einspahr

Aye: Einspahr, Matzke, Suhr

Nay: None

Absent: Goldsmith, Schmieding - Motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion: Adjourn

Moved by Suhr, second by Einspahr

Aye: Einspahr, Matzke, Suhr

Nay: None

Absent: Goldsmith, Schmieding - Motion carried.