

## SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

- Kaleb Dorweiler, Hillsdale City Forester called the Shade Tree meeting to order at 3:12 PM.
- Board members present: Gary Stachowicz, Elaine Tillinger, and Jason Sellers. Jason Blake, DPS Director was also in attendance. Jake Hammel, BPU electrical superintendent was unable to attend. A motion was made by Elaine to excuse Jake from the meeting. Motion was seconded by Jason.
- Approval of minutes: motion was made by Jason to accept the minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting. Motion was seconded by Elaine.
- Public comments: none
- Old business:
  - BPU transmission update: Kaleb gave an update on BPU tree removals, stating that transmission lines would be bid out for winter cutting.
  - BPU pruning / trimming / removal standards: Kaleb stated that he is working on a master document with general standards for sustainable trimming and removal work.
- New business:
  - New committee members: Kaleb asked the committee if they think gaining 2 new voting members is necessary (for a total of 5). Elaine stated that she contacted the garden club to gauge interest in members joining the committee, but has not heard

back. Jason mentioned that Kaleb should reach out to Joanna Miller about serving on the committee. A motion was made by Gary to work towards gaining 2 new voting members. Motion was seconded by Jason.

- Kaleb as new chairperson: Kaleb introduced himself and explained that he will be serving as the new chairperson for the Shade Tree committee.
  - New tree service contractors: Kaleb explained that he is working on hiring a few new tree service contractors, in order to keep bid prices low and accelerate the work. Farrell enterprises is promising, and Milks Tree Service is working on getting insurance documents in.
    - Kaleb brought up the topic of hiring a small in-house tree crew due to excessive contractor prices and work not being done in a reasonable timeframe. Jason said he thought it made sense, and that the city could start with 2 people. He mentioned that acquiring the required equipment could be an issue, but it would be worth investigating.
  - BPU / Siberian elm: Kaleb explained that Farrell Enterprises took a large limb off an elm over a BPU generator. Gary mentioned that BPU should contact the City Forester in the future before building something if trees could be an issue.
  - MDOT: Kaleb explained that the MDOT Youth Development Mentoring Program restarted this year. All committee members expressed support for the program and stated that the city should continue this relationship with the program.
  - County vegetation management: a discussion was had about establishing written rules for the city's obligation to manage county trees on shared streets. Jason stated he would speak with the required personnel to find out more information about establishing these documents.
- Adjournment: a motion was made by Jason Sellers to adjourn the meeting at 3:41 PM. Motion was seconded by Elaine.