

Tree Board 11-15-23

Board Members Present: Alexis Barton, Gina Dake, Kathleen Brennan-Hunter, Ley Garnett, Camden Mckone, Jon Brown

Board Members Absent: Ashley Lookenhouse

Staff Present: Natalie Rogers, Courtney Wilson

Guests: none

October minutes were approved as amended.

Natalie said Milwaukie's Arbor Day last month was a success: good turnout, many seedlings given away and many trees planted with help from Friends of Trees.

The Board returned to the City Tree List discussion. The List needs to be expanded and refined from the State Noxious Weed List that the City has been using as a guideline. A tree's location is an important point for evaluation. Concerns were raised that the State Invasive Tree List should not be absolute because it could be used to remove healthy trees and that could effectively reduce the City's canopy when it should be expanded. "Invasive" should be better defined with a goal of removing invasives only if they negatively impact Milwaukie's ecosystems. It was pointed out that replanting can be costly and if the tree code is changed to mandate it, the expense must be considered.

Natalie said she would discuss the issue with staff and produce a timeline for tree list changes. She said a new City tree inventory would be helpful but that it may take two years to secure funding. She asked Board members to work on their self-definition of an invasive species.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.