



**Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
2117 West River Road  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
November 17, 2005 – 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.**

**Attendees:**

Barbeau, Emily	City of Minnetonka
Gerber, Adam	City of Eagan
Hacker, Jan	Resource Analytics
Hermann, James	Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board
Himanga, Katie	Heartwood Forestry
Hove, Gregg	City of Eagan
Kytonen, Kameron	City of Andover
Markeson, Tina	MnDOT
Max, Michael	EnvionMentor Systems
Mueller, Don	MN DNR Metro Forestry
Newberger, Lara	City of Plymouth
Nicholson, Stephen	Kunde Company Inc.
Nozal, Gail	Tree Trust
Pederson, Kirk	Rice, Michels & Walthers LLP
Schnobrich, Mark	City of Hutchinson
Sievert, Ralph	Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board
Simons, Ken	Heritage Tree
Sinclair, Jill	City of Chanhassen
Stennes, Mark	S&S Tree & Horticultural Specialists
Stromme, Lorrie	Minneapolis
Vaughan, Jim	City of St. Louis Park
Wriskey, Rick	City of New Brighton/Mounds View

**BUSINESS SECTION:**

**Call to Order & Introductions**

President Simons called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. After everyone introduced themselves, Simons explained Hacker's new role and asked her to briefly review her background for the group.

**Review and Motion to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

Based on the head count, a quorum was not present so the minutes from the October 20 meeting could not be immediately voted on. A quorum was present at 10:45 am. At that time, Motion by Stennes, second by Newberger to approve the October 20 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Nominations of New Members**

At 10:50 am Simons asked for nominations for new members of the MnSTAC. Motion by Hermann, second by Stennes nominating Pederson. Motion carried. Motion by Max, second by Nicholson nominating Hacker. Motion carried. Both nominees thanked those in attendance and accepted membership.

## **Announcements**

President Simons announced that there would be a four hour meeting in January or February of the MnSTAC Board to begin development of a strategic plan. Changes in the constitution and make-up of the Board of Directors are anticipated. He invited all to attend and passed around a sign-up sheet for those that were interested.

President Simons also mentioned the MnSTAC mentoring program for UMN students and passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested. He also reminded the group that Board of Directors elections would occur in December and asked anyone interested in running to contact him.

## **Committee and Field Reports**

### **Awards Committee**

Newberger reported on the awards committee activities and passed out awards nomination forms. She reminded members that the awards are presented in the spring following the current year. Nomination forms are due the middle of February.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Max asked for suggestions for speakers/forums for future meetings. He stated that he has gotten 6-8 suggestions thus far.

### **Minnesota Department of Transportation**

Markeson alerted the group that "certified landscape inspector" training would be taking place shortly. Such training is required for bidding on MnDOT jobs and for doing work on MnDOT properties. Contact Markeson if you are interested in more information.

### **New Brighton & Mounds View**

Wriskey reported that clean-up costs from the 9/21/05 storm totaled \$300,000 to \$400,000 in New Brighton alone and was not a FEMA covered event (not enough structural damage). Thousands of trees were lost, curbside brush pick-up lasted 3 weeks, hundreds of hazard trees have yet to be removed and 1,000 -2,000 park and boulevard trees need trimming and repair. The city received a zero bid for the 50-70,000 cubic yards of debris as a result of the storm. The contractor is accumulating the wood at a city owned site. It will eventually be used in the St. Paul energy plant. Max suggested a tour of this plant for a future MnSTAC meeting.

Development of a replanting plan is the next step. Replanting of lost trees can occur if those trees were lost within 100 feet of a city structure under New Brighton & Mounds View's insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Trust. You may want to check with your finance department regarding this.

Removal of diseased elms totaled 400 this year for both cities. Removal of diseased red oaks totaled 70 with is up from the normal 40-45. Non-storm hazard tree removals totaled 150 and 300 new trees were planted.

### **City of St. Louis Park**

Vaughan reported 1,467 dutch elm disease losses (DED) (913 of which were on private land) and 72 non-DED losses on public property, most of which were maples with girdling roots. They try to replace all boulevard trees within 1 year of removal. This included 424 trees in 2005 - all 2" B & B stock - of a variety of 10 species. All but 70 were planted under contract.

This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the City's subsidized Arbotect treatments. Trees injected in 2005 totaled 267. Thirty trees previously injected contracted DED, 12 possibly by root graft and 12 in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of injection and ready to be re-injected. The City's policy of selling stock wholesale to residents for replanting is on-going.

### **City of Eagan**

Hove reported that they have been pretty aggressive on oak wilt but not so much on DED because they have so few elms left. Elm removals peaked last year. They have noticed that oak wilt seems to follow a 10 year trend. They marked 210 this year and are seeing more burr and white oaks affected (25% this year compared to 1-2% normally). Cost-sharing of fungicide as a preventative measure is on-going. Eagan also has a buckthorn education and removal program.

Over the last few years, landscape management has become a bigger part of their workload. The city added ½ million dollars of new plantings this year alone which the forestry department is responsible for maintaining. Hove stated Eagan had little storm damage this year despite straight line winds in June & early July.

### **Other Comments**

Stennes said he had a conversation with the person who diagnosed emerald ash borer which suggested to him it would be wise not to plant any more ash. He also reported on Botryosphaera fungal infections in burr and white oaks. This is an indigenous fungus but can become a problem when the tree is under stress. It is frequently associated with anthrax. He suggested the oaks be treated for anthrax to relieve the stress on the trees and reduce the chance that Botryosphaera would become a problem.

### **FORUM:**

**Speaker:** Lorrie Stromme, Chair STAC Legislative Committee

**Presentation:** Debrief of Senate Bonding Committee's Tour of Rochester's Urban Forest and STAC's plans for the 2006 legislative session.

Stromme described meetings she had with the Mn Nursery & Landscape Association, the Mn Society of Arborists and the Mn Turf & Grounds Foundation. The main topic of discussion was the possibility of forming a partnership to advance items of common interest within the legislature. Long discussion ensued among those present. All agreed that such a partnership might be beneficial. How such a partnership would function in practice was also discussed as it might relate to the 2006 state appropriation request. Pederson stated that individual letters from members of these organizations would be more influential than just one from each organization and encouraged those attending to do both. Following further discussion Stromme agreed to put together some talking points concerning the bonding initiative for members to include in individually prepared correspondence and email it to Max for distribution.

The 2006 appropriation request mentioned above was prepared by the Mn Dept. of Agriculture. It is a \$20 million request for grants to local governments to address statewide municipal shade tree sanitation and reforestation programs. It would provide mitigation for the impacts of DED and oak wilt and potential impacts of emerald ash borer and natural disasters. Monies would be provided for sanitation activities (inspections, disruption of common root systems, girdling, trimming, removal and disposal of infested wood) and reforestation on municipal properties. The proposed appropriation will be considered by the bonding/capital investment committees in both houses.

Stromme next described the recent legislative tour of Rochester's urban forest arranged by the Dept. of Agriculture. The tour consisted of presentations and a field trip around the city. It was well attended by legislators and their staff. The Mn Nursery & Landscape Association has also set up a "Day on the Hill" on March 16 as part of their legislative outreach efforts. Stromme encouraged everyone to attend. Contact her for details.

Following Stromme's presentation, additional reports on municipal tree programs were heard.

### **City of Minnetonka**

Barbeau reported a big increase in DED in 2005 – 2,400 trees. Oak wilt infected 75 trees. Their department is undergoing an organizational change. A Natural Resources Division is being created which is where forestry will be located. They are now in the Public Works Department.

**City of Hutchinson**

Schnobrich stated that he too has seen things changing, organizationally, in the scope of city forester's jobs echoing comments made by others. They are becoming more multi-faceted and comprehensive and occur more on a landscape scale. He also reported on their program that taxes developers to raise money for tree planting.

**City of Minneapolis**

Sievert reported that Minneapolis lost a total of 6,000 elms this year ½ of which were private and ½ public. In 2005, 10,000 trees were planted. Fewer ash were planted compared to past years and they are getting more pressure to plant disease resistant elms.

**City of Plymouth**

Newberger reported 2,000 elms marked this year, a reduction of 900 from 2004. Plymouth was unscathed by the storms on 9/20/05 and sent people to Brooklyn Park, Osseo and Brooklyn Center to help with clean up. The city did have a smattering of "mystery fungus" cases on white oaks around town, showing up mostly in August.

**City of Chanhassen**

Sinclair reported that 180 private and 117 public diseased elms were marked and removed in 2005. There was no positive confirmation on a disease-resistant elm variety. She was pleased to report no positive results from oak wilt testing. The city is in the process of inventorying all boulevard trees. The project is about 50% complete. A notebook and GPS unit with Bluetooth is being used which is very efficient. The project should be completed this winter.

**City of Andover**

Kytonen reported that staff are continuing coordination of oak wilt and disease tree suppression programs with residents using MnReLeaf funds. There has been no increase in oak wilt but DED incidence is still very high. The city is working on its third FireWise project involving a potential pine thinning in the west part of the City. Andover also received a large DNR Remediation grant to enhance Kelsey Round Lake Park. The project involves removing buckthorn from about 15 acres of woodland, planting native trees and restoring approximately 40 acres with native prairie grasses and forbs. Andover is also working with the high school on a 4 acre native prairie restoration project which will re-establish oak savannah and wet prairie. Revision and improvement of the City's Tree Preservation Policy is also underway.

Motion by Himanga, second by Max to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan J. Hacker