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MINUTES ARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 14, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Village Green, 47 Hall Street

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Members attending were Gary Bell and Mike Neal. Also attending were David Betz, Director of Development and Rick Frantz, Part-Time City Arborist Intern.

Mr. Betz began with introductions for the members. After that, the following agenda items were discussed:

City-wide Street Tree and Park Tree Survey

Mr. Betz introduced Rick Frantz, who has been working on the survey project. Data is being compiled for all City owned trees within the street rights-of-way as well as the parks. The reason for this inventory is for the City to realize what we have in terms of trees, their size (DBH and spread), condition, location, environment, etc. From this information, we will be able to better establish an ongoing maintenance program, which will become even more important over time when the trees get older. Also, the City can better evaluate the situation with Ash trees in light of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Mr. Frantz showed the members the program being utilized on the computer. ArcGIS is being utilized in order to map the tree locations and the database being utilized. This database can be an ongoing survey of public trees that can be added to as trees get planted. Trees that are removed will remain on the database as well in order to track how well (or not well) certain types of trees grow within Powell.

The Committee members both indicated that this is a great tool to have and that the investment made now with this will give back to the community for many years. It was asked when the inventory might be completed? Mr. Frantz indicated that being very part-time (~5-10 hours/week), it will take until April/May to complete.

2006 Share-the-Cost Tree Planting Program

Mr. Betz indicated that we have received applications for only 26 trees this year. This may be down because we do not have many neighborhoods participating in a large scale. After looking at the list the Committee approved the project for this year. Mr.

Betz indicated that the City will also be planting trees with this program to replace those that have died within the parks.

Emerald Ash Borer Information & Policy

Mr. Betz discussed the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) situation and that some day it will come to Powell. We need to be prepared as a City for when that occurs, both from a personnel preparedness standpoint and a financial standpoint. Mr. Betz handed out EAB Policies from several communities that are being utilized as models for cities to adopt. It has been recommended that cities take a proactive role in reducing their ash tree populations over time. This will make it more financially palatable for cities over the term of the EAB problem.

The Committee discussed the possible financial ramifications and that the City should prepare for expenses running into the tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars. The inventory has already identified almost 400 ash trees, and the inventory is only ½ complete. The Committee discussed alternatives and Staff will be preparing a DRAFT policy document for review at the next meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Neal brought up some other matters that the City should deal with from a maintenance standpoint. There are some big vines growing into the beech trees at Beechwood Park that should be removed. It was also suggested that some educational material be put together for educating homeowners on the care and maintenance of their trees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.