

Campus Landscape & Beautification Committee
March 8, 2016

Present: Ashley Blake, Mikhail Bobylev, Ash Bowen, DeVera Bowles, Linda Conn, Patty Hunt, Robert Kibler, Mike Linnell, Teresa Loftesnes, Sue Lommen, Annette Mennem, Karen Self, Alexey Shipunov, Brian Smith, Mark Timbrook, and Deb Wentz

1. A. Shipunov distributed a proposed MSU Tree Care Plan prior to the meeting and asked for suggestions. The basics of the plan include:
 - Role of the committee; terms; expectations
 - Criteria to determine tree removal (tree is dead or dying; tree is deemed hazardous)
 - Factors to consider if tree is dead/dying and/or hazardous
 - Life expectancy of the tree
 - Desirability of the tree species
 - Amount of space allowable for growth
 - Overall quality and structural integrity of the tree
 - Persistent and uncontrollable insect/disease problems
 - Frequency and extensiveness of the trees maintenance requirements
 - Feasibility and timeliness in which a replacement tree will be planted
 - Proximity and quality of trees near the one considered for approval
 - Wishes and desires of the grounds arborist, faculty, staff, and students
 - Quality and extend of past pruning and other tree maintenance practices the tree has undergone
 - Extent and frequency of damage the tree is causing to surrounding infrastructure such as sidewalks, streets, sewers, etc
 - Location of the tree with regard to streetlights, traffic control devices, intersection sight lines and the requirements of the growing space
 - Actual Removal of tree
 - Requires committee approval
 - In case of an emergency removal, tree should be kept alive and replanted
 - Notice to campus should be published 10 days (if not an emergency) in advance of removal
 - Planting of new trees
 - Educational value
 - Environmental and/or functional reasons
 - Aesthetic
 - Pruning trees – the following methods do not have to be pre-approved by the committee:
 - Cleaning to remove dead, diseased and/or broken branches
 - Thinning to recue density of live branches
 - Raising to provide vertical clearance

- Reducing to decrease height or spread
- Financing - options include:
 - Participate in Tree Campus USA – requires \$9, 900 money set aside to be spent on following activities:
 - Moving trees to new places instead of discarding them
 - Healing damage trees
 - Buying new trees
 - Make a tree inventory of the campus
 - Label trees on campus and updated old labels

2. Discussion regarding the proposal

What is the current tree plan?

Groundskeeper is responsible for determining tree viability; the City of Minot also comes on campus once a year and marks trees that need to be removed.

It was suggested that in the event there are trees that need to be removed, this committee is consulted or at the very least apprised of the need for tree removal.

Do we need input from the whole committee?

Consensus was that we do need a lot of discussion before trees are removed; we do have “dedicated” trees on campus and if they are removed they will need to be replaced.

It was suggested that in the case of an emergency (tree falling) that an email to all committee members apprising them that that tree will need to be removed would be appreciated. At least if the tree is healthy it may be possible to get some DNA information.

What does it do for MSU to join the Tree Campus USA? Where will the \$10,000 come from?

It offers us some prestige as we would be the only ND campus participating; it would offer student engagement opportunities; it would offer green areas on campus that everyone can enjoy; it would mean that there are dedicated dollars to be spent on tree maintenance and purchases.

We certainly can check with Tree Campus USA to see if there could be a discounted budget amount to maintain; we could write grants; we could solicit from the City, State agencies, and nurseries.

Define what an emergency situation consists of?

Certainly if the tree is about to fall or has fallen, we would need to tend to it. If it is healthy we could relocate the tree to another area on campus. Another option would be to take a tissue culture so we have a DNA copy of the tree.

Next steps:

A. Shipunov updates a tree map each semester – after the dedicated trees are identified, they will be noted on this map

Follow-up with a small business in Burlington to obtain costs of tree signage

Create a campus website for this committee (D. Wentz will follow-up with ITC)

D. Wentz will send a notice out when the next meeting in April will be held.

Meeting adjourned