

Sandy Ronski

From: Jason Sladky
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 5:51 PM
To: Chad Scheinoha
Cc: Dan Koski; Sandy Ronski
Subject: RE: Forestry and Parks Division work priorities

Chad,

Lets add this to the agenda for Tuesday's meeting.

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From: Chad Scheinoha
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 5:00 PM
To: Justin Nickels; Mike Howe; Scott McMeans - D2; Christopher Able - D3; James Brey - D4; Patrick Brandel; Eric Sitkiewitz - D6; Jill Hennessey; David Soeldner; Al Schema - D9; Jason Sladky
Cc: Alvin Rehme; Dan Koski; Sandy Ronski; Sue Reilly; Karen Dorow; Steve Herzog; Greg Minikel
Subject: Forestry and Parks Division work priorities

Good afternoon to all,

Dan wanted me to touch base with all of you after a series of events over the past few months have brought to light a challenging issue for us. TERRACE TREES

Our team leader at the parks division has been out on FML for the past 4 weeks and Alvin (city forester) has been helping to fill this role. Also over the past 4 weeks we have also had 43 calls from citizens regarding terrace trees. Alvin has not been able to address many of these in a timely manner for inspection and follow-up due to the additional responsibilities he has taken on. Needless to say the tree crew has not been out working at all either.

As all of you may know, some of the city foresters responsibilities include tracking citizen tree concerns and responding to them, as well as scheduling them for removal and removing them. He and I have set up a 4 tier priority system over the course of the past year and a half to determine which trees get removed first. The first and most important tier is "4-D" trees (dead, dying, diseased or dangerous). This is really the only tier that we concentrate on removing, the rest get inspected and placed on a list. Those trees are then up to the homeowner to deal with on their own if they are interested in removing them. This has not been made formal policy yet since we have still been in the trial period.

We have been carrying a running total of around 40 -50 trees in the "4-D" tier and last year removed about 35. I didn't take the time to count exact numbers for this e-mail, but can get them if anyone wants them. At that rate, this list will slowly continue to grow every year and trees that pose a risk will be on our streets.

Recently, due a couple reasons one of these trees from this list fell unexpectedly into the road. While it did not cause any major problems or injuries. The fact remains that if we had removed it timely this would not have happened. This happened in the 600 block of St Claire St during sidewalk repairs by Seiler Construction. There are 4 other trees immediately adjacent to this one that we will remove this week and into next week. This block will remain closed into next week and will be reopened after the trees are removed.

There have also been 4 other terrace trees this spring that have come down on their own without warning.

After discussing this issue with Alvin Rehme and Dan Koski I have determined that these trees on this "4-D" list need to become a priority not only for our 4 tier system for the forestry division, but for the Parks division as a whole. This means over the course of the next couple months we will be setting aside some normal parks operational work to follow up on citizen complaints and remove "4-D" trees. I don't think that what we set aside will have a drastic impact on what the public see, however it will affect operations of the parks. Tasks such as playground inspections, borders/woodchips at playgrounds, grass cutting, general facility repairs (leaking faucets, burned out lights, door hinges, fence repairs, etc.); and our wish list of parks improvements like installing more grills in parks, split rail fence and other improvements at the zoo, and Lower Schuette Park improvements. There are many others, but this gives you an idea.

I apologize for the long e-mail, but feel that this is important information for all of you to have and know. As always, if anyone has any questions feel free to give me a call. Hopefully we can put a good dent in these "4-D" trees over the course of the next couple months with hopes of getting this list to a manageable and safer number.

Chad J. Scheinoha

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