

RESOLUTION 23-61B

ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE, PRESERVATION AND REPLACEMENT OF TREES WITHIN THE CITY'S URBAN FOREST

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Mills City Council may provide for the creation of ad hoc committees as may be necessary for the City of Lake Mills.

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Mills Forestry staff maintains and preserves 4,207 City Trees in the community tree lawns and park system; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the City Council indicated in the Strategic Plan that the city has certain strengths, including Natural resources – Rock Lake, parks & trails, tree city.

WHEREAS, the City Council is aware of concerns expressed by community members related to past street infrastructure improvement projects and their desires for the preservation of mature trees in the impacted areas; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to review and consider options for short-term and long-term maintenance and preservation of the City Trees which takes into account costs, air quality, stormwater mitigation, habitat for wildlife, safety, and aesthetic enhancement of the community.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires community involvement as the basis for strong and inclusive recommendations on the need for assessing ongoing maintenance and preservation required for the City Trees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lake Mills as follows:

Section 1. Advisory Committee on Urban Forest Management. That the City hereby establishes an ad hoc committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Urban Forest Management which is organized to provide the following:

1. The Committee shall make recommendations regarding the goals and criteria to be considered when replacing trees removed during a project. The Committee shall also develop recommendations regarding engineering specifications, construction practices, and tree preservation techniques that may be incorporated into future infrastructure projects to preserve mature trees.
2. Review and make recommendations regarding revisions, additions, or deletions from Chapter 594 – Trees.
3. Review of the City's current procedures regarding Park Tree Maintenance and Management. Any recommendations shall be forward to the Parks Board prior to consideration by the City Council.

The Committee shall not comment on the performance of city employees nor make recommendations altering or limiting the duties, powers or authorities of the Grounds and Facilities Director, City Forester, Arborist or other relevant employee/officer of the City. Recommendations should be limited to the development of clear policy to guide the City's staff in the implementation of the City Council's goals and vision for the community.

Section 2. Rationale: Preserving Natural Resources Which Beautify and Define Our Community. The Advisory Committee on Urban Forest Management is charged with preparing recommendations to the City Council on each of the policy areas articulated in Section 1, with the exception of Item 3, which shall be forwarded to the Parks Board. In making these recommendations, the Committee shall consider cost, environmental benefit, and aesthetic value. The Committee shall consider input from city staff, current city policies and ordinances, local civic organizations, natural preservation organizations, and construction project contractors. The Committee must also consider input from community members in making its recommendations to the City Council.

Section 3. Appointments: Procedure and City Council Ratification. Upon passage of this Resolution, the City Manager shall publish an announcement on the front page of the City's website notifying citizens of vacancies to be filled for the Committee and providing citizens an opportunity to apply to serve as a committee member. On the second regularly scheduled City Council meeting after the passage of this Resolution, the City Manager shall present all applications to the City Council who will select five (5) members to serve on the Committee. The City Council may ratify any, all, or none of applicants for appointment in its sole discretion. If five (5) members are not chosen, the City Manager will present additional applications received at the next meeting until five (5) members have been approved to serve on the Committee by the City Council. All Committee members must be citizens of the City of Lake Mills. The City Council members may recommend residents from their district for appointment.

Section 4. Officers: Chair and Vice Chair. The Committee shall select a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary from its membership. The Chair shall be responsible for overseeing meetings of the Committee and the Vice Chair shall fulfill this duty when the Chair is unable to do so. The Secretary shall take the roll and keep minutes of the proceedings and submit them to the City Clerk.

Section 5. Public Information. All meetings of the Committee shall be conducted in conformance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and all information created by or on behalf of the Committee shall be made available as required by the Wisconsin Public Record Law.


Section 6. Budget: None. The Committee shall not have any budgetary authority and does not have any funds appropriated to facilitate its purpose. The City Council may appropriate such funds as may be necessary for the Committee to fulfill its responsibilities from the contingency fund.

Section 7. Duration: Until Complete. The Committee shall serve beginning from the time five (5) members have been appointed and ratified pursuant to the procedure(s) in Section 3 of this Resolution. The Committee shall prioritize and issue its recommendations regarding Section 1, Item 1 by June 1, 2024. The Committee must fulfill the remainder of its obligations under Section 1, Items 2 through 3 by December 31, 2024. The Committee shall dissolve automatically upon the receipt and acknowledgement by the City Council of their final recommendations on all items within Section 1 or on December 31, 2024, whichever is earlier. The City Council may extend the term of the Committee or modify its charge at any time.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after its approval by the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby authorize the Council President to sign this resolution.

RESOLVED, this 21 day of September 2023.

APPROVED: 
Liesa Kerler, Council President

ATTEST: 
Melissa Quest, City Clerk