



MARCY
HOLMES

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD

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September 11, 2014

Mr. David Rubedor
Neighborhood Community Relations
Crown Roller Mill #425
105 5th Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Re: Neighborhood Priority Plan for MHNA

Dear Mr. Rubedor,

As you probably know, MHNA's 2014 Master Plan was adopted by the full city council on August 15th. Neighborhood stakeholders worked on the plan for more than a year – over 200 people attended open meetings; there were 2,200 online interactions, seven focus groups on specific topics and a highly engaged steering committee- and the final product reflects this open process. ***As a general framework, MHNA would like the City and NCR to consider our Master Plan as our Neighborhood Priority Plan.***

We have funding set aside for Neighborhood Priorities in our current, approved budget. Most of these priority projects are being funded by grants, past NRP funds or money that MHNA has raised. We are writing today about **allocating \$7,737 in NPP funds** that were set aside last year. We would like to put those fund under contract **for one year of treatment for priority ash trees on public property in our neighborhood to prevent damage from the Emerald Ash Borer.**

The Marcy-Holmes Board of Directors will vote on this item at its September 16, 2014 meeting. Notice of the Sept 16th vote was announced at the August 19 board meeting and followed up via emails to board members on Aug 20th. It went out to general membership, area organizations and institutions, and the general public in our monthly newsletter, "Items of Interest" on Sept 5th; it was posted on MHNA's website; and was mailed Sept 3rd to 146 property owners with ash trees on their boulevards.

This issue has been previously presented and discussed:

- *Jan 2013 Presentation on Emerald Ash Borer at MHNA General Membership meeting; promoted city Emerald Ash Borer Symposium (held in Feb 2013)*

- August 2013: Table and posters on EAB at National Night Out
- Sept 17, 2013 MHNA's SOS Trees (Save our Shade Trees) Task Force created
- Sept 2013 Created a SOS Trees work plan, approved by board along with approval of using \$1,154 in existing NRP Tree funds for this initiative
- Sept 2013 MHNA sent notice with a postcard and flyers to all property owners in Marcy-Holmes informing them of the EAB problem and inviting them to attend a meeting Sept 24, 2013
- Sept 22, 2013 MHNA, MPRB and U MN students, as part of Thank U campaign, installed bright green ribbon banners on ash trees and posted explanations to increase awareness of ash tree locations; the banners remained through the winter 2013-14
- Sept 24, 2013 MHNA hosted an Emerald Ash Borer Q & A meeting, with Mpls Park and Recreation Board Forestry staff
- Fall 2013 - spring 2014 - MHNA volunteers talked with St. Anthony Main business leaders about ash tree protection on SE Main Street; landowners decided to treat those trees
- Nov 9, 2013 - MHNA board selected tree protection as priority for 2014 - 16 Winter 2014 SOS Task Force gathered further information from MPRB staff about tree care and locations, researched tree treatment options and risks, and met with two neighborhoods (SE Como and St. Anthony West) to develop a strategy
- Spring 2014 SOS Task Force sent out an RFP (Request for Proposals), reviewed several proposals, and chose a tree care expert to develop an urban canopy plan including trees to remove and replace quickly and trees to protect (Rainbow Tree). Task Force met in June, reviewed the draft plan in July, and met in August to develop and fine tune plan.
- June 2014 Presentation at MHNA General Membership meeting by Rainbow Tree, including criteria for protection and replacement
- July 2014 - MHNA Board selected as a continuing priority at board retreat
- August 2014 - EAB info booth at large National Night Out celebration, including expert staff and volunteers, and providing copy of draft plan
- Info about the EAB problem and MHNA efforts to save ash trees posted on MHNA website, and sent to members and neighborhood-based organizations and institutions 2013-14
- Individual meetings held with property owners 2013-14, including business owners
- Aug 19, 2014 MHNA Board meeting- motion passed to submit NPP request to allocate \$7,737 for funding EAB treatment on 204 public trees with adequate notice to be given to stakeholders that a vote will occur at the Sept 16, 2014 MHNA Board meeting

MHNA first became aware of the Emerald Ash problem here late in 2012. We have

been working with **Philip Potyondy**, Sustainable Forestry Coordinator, at Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

MHNA's board approved the Action Plan prepared by Rainbow Tree Care, addressing our urban tree canopy and 398 ash trees. The plan describes three tiers of priority trees, with a total of 204 public ash trees contributing significantly to our urban tree canopy. Of those, 20 are already treated with private funding. With this prioritization, the MPRB can move forward with removal of some of the other 194 trees this fall.

Our 2014 timeline:

1. September 2014: Contract with Rainbow Tree Care according to the MHNA-adopted plan and their proposal. Select half of the 204 trees identified as priorities for injection treatment, based on professional counsel of Rainbow Tree Care and the MPRB staff. Treatment must be complete before leaf-off.
2. September 2014: Notify adjacent landowners of pending injection treatment and provide information about the Save Our Shade Trees Action Plan. Invite community participation in SOS Trees Task Force.
3. October 2014: Provide community information and update on the treatment status and strategies at the MHNA General Meeting.
4. October 2014 - April 2015: Develop long-term budget (10 years), outreach plan and fundraising plan for implementing Save Our Shade Tree Action Plan to protect 204 priority trees, and plan for a sustainable urban tree canopy for the neighborhood, including speedy replanting where public trees are removed.
5. April 2015 - September 2015: Implement Year 2 of treatment, outreach and fundraising. Manage treatment contract, including request for proposals. Continue coordinating with MPRB staff.

Thank you for your assistance in the approval process. This Neighborhood Priority should be tied to our to Phase II strategy 2.1.B.3. - Dutch Elm Disease Prevention, as suggested by Stacy Sorenson, so it can be approved administratively vs. taking it through City Council.

Sincerely,



Janet Morse
President, MHNA