

A regular meeting of the Alma Downtown Development Authority (ADDA) was held at the Alma Municipal Building.

Authority members present: Stacey Ensz, Donna Kolar, Greg Mapes, Brent Moeggenberg, Ken Solomon, and Katie Tobias.

Authority members absent: Joe Ahern, Carol Freed, Nancy Gallagher (arrived after roll call), Ken Kline, Canyon Platt, and Andy Shafley.

DDA Director Aeris Ripley opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of members was not present.

Ripley asked those present for discussion on the tree plan, and reviewed recommendations from MSU including pros and cons of the recommended tree species.

Nancy Gallagher arrived at 6:05 p.m. and a quorum of members was then present.

Ripley provided fact sheets for trees already growing in the downtown. He said a variety of replacement trees might resolve issues with each tree species and suggested a plan for one block that could be repeated throughout the downtown area. Discussion followed about a pattern to help with uniformity and future planting, and a plan for removal of poorly fairing trees. Ripley said tree removals would depend on the budget.

Solomon suggested determining a total number of trees per block to help with planning. Gallagher mentioned eight trees per block. Mapes said six trees per block worked better for him. Discussion followed about placement of six trees per block. Gallagher suggested landscape plantings in the remaining spaces. Tobias suggested bike racks or other things in the remaining spaces. Discussion followed about lowered landscaping, benches, bike racks, sculptures, directional signage, and potted trees.

Gallagher asked about deferring to professionals for tree placement. Discussion followed about the variety of trees on the Alma College campus.

Solomon recommended the following trees: London planetree, honey locust, river birch, and ginkgo tree. He suggested six trees per block, starting with two blocks, numbering each tree, and keeping detailed records of plantings.

Moeggenberg asked about removing six trees this year. Ripley indicated there wasn't money in the budget for removal this year, but it could be done after the start of the new budget year. Solomon suggested picking twelve trees in the worst condition and planning to remove them in the new budget year.

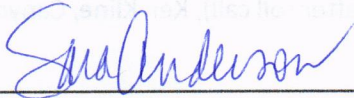
Moeggenberg asked about a plan to fill spaces not being used for trees. Discussion followed about bike racks, sculptures, the pros and cons of adding seating, and other options.

Solomon asked if there was a plan for removal of trees, and Ripley indicated the service would have to be contracted out. Discussion followed about equipment and liability.

Solomon asked if the trash cans in alleys would be replaced. Ripley noted only four extra had been purchased for reserve.

Discussion followed and the group determined the number of trash cans on Superior could be reduced, with the extras going to replace old cans in alleys. Ripley will review the solid waste collection contract to see if alley trash cans are covered in the agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m. Motion carried.



Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval: October 26, 2022