Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2020-161

Resolution Approving Contracts for the Purchase of Trees as Requested Per B.E. No 927 at an Estimated Total Expenditure of $1,000,000 Pending Approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board is the steward of the public urban forest in Minneapolis;

Whereas, The City of Minneapolis has been designated one of the 10 best cities for urban forests by American Forests, a national conservation organization;

Whereas, Tree planting is a vital component of the MPRB's urban forestry program because new trees are needed to sustain the canopy cover that is in jeopardy from tree pests such as Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer as well as from storms and construction activities;

Whereas, The Forestry Department is annually removing and replanting 5000 public ash trees in accordance with its eight-year Canopy Replacement Plan which began in 2014;

Whereas, The Forestry Department plans to perpetuate the urban forest canopy by planting over 9000 new trees of various varieties and cultivars in 2020; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which envisions "Urban forests, natural areas and waters that endure and captivate;"

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve contracts for the purchase of trees as requested per B.E. #927 at an estimated total expenditure of $1,000,000 pending approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments; and

RESOLVED, That the President and Secretary of the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

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TO: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

FROM: Jeremy Barrick, Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Steward

DATE: March 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving Contracts for the Purchase of Trees as Requested Per B.E. No 927 at an Estimated Total Expenditure of $1,000,000 Pending Approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments

BACKGROUND

This action considers the approval of contracts with commercial nurseries to provide the trees that will be planted by the Forestry Department in spring of 2020. The Minneapolis urban forest is comprised of many different tree types. The trees purchased through contracts with commercial nurseries will further enhance this diversification. This is important because it provides a natural defense against invasive pests that harm trees.

The first effort to diversify the urban forest was implemented after the arrival of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) in the 1960s. In the early 1980s, a master planting plan was developed which assigned tree types to each street. This planting pattern established species diversity throughout the city on a block by block basis.

After Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discovered in Minneapolis in 2010, Forestry staff initiated a second diversification effort following meetings with neighborhood organizations. During these interactions, most residents expressed interest in seeing tree diversity increased on city blocks and in seeing more trees planted. In response the block by block approach was replaced with diversity guidelines that ensure two or more tree types will be planted on a given street. The Forestry Department planted an average of over 7400 new trees annually from 2010 through 2019. During the previous 20 years from 1990 through 2009, an average of 3400 trees were planted annually.

As the population of EAB increases over time the MPRB will be dealing with a corresponding increase in infested ash trees that will need to be removed. In preparation for replacing 40,000 public ash trees over eight years and the increase in severe storms resulting in tree losses, the MPRB initiated its Canopy Replacement Plan in 2014. A significant part of this plan calls for the removal of 5000 public ash trees each year so that they may be replaced the following spring. Ash replacements are being funded via the Tree Preservation & Reforestation Levy that was passed as part of the 2020 budget. When combined with losses due to DED and other causes, over 9000 new trees are planned for 2020.

Because the availability of trees changes from year to year, nurseries that supply trees to the MPRB may be as far away as Buffalo, NY or as close as Hennepin County. The demand for specific trees often requires years of lead time to produce the quantities that are required.

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Soliciting bids from numerous nurseries helps overcome availability differences. The continued refinement of tree purchase bid specifications has enabled the Forestry Department to acquire quality trees at the best possible price.
Following the solicitation of bidders per B.E. No. 927, City Purchasing provided a list of companies to the Forestry Department. Of these companies, twelve will be providing a portion of the over 9000 trees that will be purchased for planting this spring. The following companies are recommended as being able to furnish trees in 2020 for planting on public streets, parks and parkways by the MPRB:

1. Bachman's Inc.
2. Bob Swedberg Nursery Inc.
3. Charles J Fiore Co., Inc.
4. Chestnut Ridge Nursery, Inc.
5. Gerten's Greenhouses
6. Hoffman & McNamara Co.
7. Klaus Nurseries
8. McKay Nursery Co.
9. Schichtel's Nursery Inc.
10. Tree Trust
11. Univ of Minnesota/TRE Nursery
12. Wilson's Nursery Inc.

Each of these companies will be providing more than one species of tree. The trees are provided with one of the following three root types: bare root, balled & burlapped and container grown. Delivery is expected to begin as early as late March depending on weather conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the contracts for the purchase of trees as requested per B.E. No. 927 at an estimated total expenditure of $1,000,000.00 pending approval by City of Minneapolis Purchasing & Procurement and Civil Rights Departments.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statements in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan:

Vision Theme 1: Urban Forests, Natural Areas and Waters that endure and captivate.

Goal Healthy boulevard trees connect all city residents to their park system";
Goal People and the environment benefit from the expansion and protection of natural resources

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Prepared By: Ralph Sievert, Director of Forestry, Forestry
Review:
Ralph C. Sievert Completed 03/05/2020 3:52 PM
Jeremy BarrickCompleted 03/05/2020 11:38 PM
Jennifer Ringold Completed 03/08/2020 3:48 PM
Al Bangoura Completed 03/11/2020 8:13 AM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pending 03/18/2020 5:00 PM