From: Karl Mueller
To: Mai Vang
Cc: Marcia Moermond; Joanna Zimny
Subject: RE: 695 Ohio Street
Date: Friday, May 31, 2024 1:28:06 PM
Attachments: 695 Ohio St - stump.jpg
695 Ohio St - looking west.jpg
695 Ohio St - property pin.jpg
image002.png
image003.png

Good Afternoon,

Yes, I did go out earlier this week and determined that the majority, if not all, of the stump is situated on 695 Ohio St.

I attached a few pictures showing the stump and property pin. The found the pin in the concrete to be accurate as I measured from the corner of Ohio St/Page St.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!
Karl

SAINT PAUL
MINNESOTA

Karl Mueller
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From: Mai Vang <mai.vang@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:02 AM
To: Karl Mueller <karl.mueller@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Cc: Marcia Moermond <marcia.moermond@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Joanna Zimny <joanna.zimny@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: 695 Ohio Street

Hi Karl,
Are you the person to follow up on this?

See minutes below.

Recommendation forthcoming pending staff review of stump location.

Daniel Witucki, owner, appeared via phone

[Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Staff report by Forestry Supervisor Karl Mueller: September 1, 2023 we issued orders for 3 trees. 25" in back yard, 17" and 14" inside front yard. All 3 infested with EAB. Compliance date of October 2, rechecked October 20. No work done. The contract was given to BJ Haines who did the work January 18, 2024 for a total assessment of $4,026.67. I didn't hear from anyone about

extensions or anything like that.

Moermond: why are you appealing Mr. Witucki?

Daniel Witucki: the first notice I got was pink posted on the building, that was the first I heard about the tree period. My wife tried to call around to get estimates. She spoke with Mr. Mueller in December. We were contracting with Matt Molinarist to remove them. We were going to have six trees removed total. We were under the impression everyone was aware we were working on it. The Arborist scheduled Xcel to drop the lines for 3 houses to remove the trees. He showed up December 14 with Xcel to do that, found out there was some problem so it was rescheduled to after the Holidays. Next thing I knew, these trees were gone. That's where we're at. The one big tree in the back yard, part is on the neighbor's property from my understanding. That's my view.

Moermond: Ramsey County has your address as 566 Orleans. Is that right? That's where the notice went.

Daniel Witucki: that's correct.

Moermond: so, Parks sent their notice to the tax owner with the County. Not sure what happened there.

Mueller: we did send the letter to that address. I didn't see any returned mail. It was sent on or around September 1.

Moermond: you also spoke to a contractor, what is your ask today Mr. Witucki?

Daniel Witucki: I guess I'm not sure. I'm kind of upset we spoke with Karl in December. Had it scheduled to do. He was going to do six trees plus trimming for $6,000. That's $1,000 a tree. The City sent me a bill for $4,000 for 3 trees. I don't understand how it happened, I felt we had communication. The first I heard was the pink notice in October or November. Certainly, I had it scheduled to do much cheaper.

Moermond: how does the City charge the rates it does?

Mueller: we have two contractors and they both go out to do a bid, and I gave the contract to the low bid. That's how that price came about.

Moermond: I hear you want the assessment decreased, and I'm struggling with the reason to do so.

Mueller: I don't recall getting a call about them doing the trees. I have no record or recollection of that. I've spoken to Dan before about another property on Grand. Maybe last year.

Daniel Witucki: that was for a commercial building there. My wife spoke with you. I'm not trying to blame, but from our perspective we did talk to you and never received any other communication or deadline after that. We had a guy show up with the power company. We thought we were all on the same page.

Wife: it was probably more November when I spoke with you Karl, you said they do the timing based on the season. If it isn't done by December it would be spring. You said we could hire our own arborist to do it, but you also said we would get notice before someone came out to do it so we had a heads up.

Mueller: I'm sorry, I deal with a lot of properties. When I hear that, I do usually note it in my documentation about an extension, and I don't have a record of that. I usually would do that. I don't recall that conversation, I'm sorry.

Daniel Witucki: we do like Karl, but somewhere some wires got crossed. I don't feel like we could have been done anymore. There's no way to take a tree like that out in 5 days. It required the power company. It was a big deal. Part of that tree is on the neighbor's property too. It would have cost me about $2,000 versus about $4,000.

Moermond: does the stump still exist?

Mueller: yes.

Moermond: Mr. Mueller, when you have this type of conversation do you say the City reaches back about when they'd be coming. Does that mean someone will call me about when the crew would show up?

Mueller: it isn't the City's responsibility, once the contractor gets the contract their job is to notify the homeowner, especially if

there is a line drop, since their power would be interrupted. I don't know if that happened; I can talk to them. The communication is in their hands. We work with them on any complications, access problems things like that. Typically, it is all in the contractor's hands as far as communication.

Mai Vang
(She, her)
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