

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – March 2014 (115)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Earl Cottrill, Colin Stein, Al Evans, Jim Lemon, and Doug Crabill

Absent: Ron McFarland and Tingting Cai

Reading and Approval of Minutes (11/14/2013):

Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/14/2013 as presented. Colin Stein seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving the minutes as presented.

Old Business:

Possible Changes to Chapter 905 (Trees): Doug Crabill again reiterated that the city has moved away from the use of the administrative regulation for tree removal. At this point in time, this administrative regulation will be eliminated and changes will be made to Chapter 905 (Trees). Staff will continue to work with the Shade Tree Commission, City Council, and the community to garner input for these revisions. The goal is to get these changes made in 2014.

Tree Removal Update: Doug Crabill stated that the 2013 inventory data is being used to prioritize removal needs based on what trees the city can safely remove and which trees will require a contractor. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that several tree removal projects were completed throughout 2013. Doug Crabill reported that additional tree removal work was completed on Park Avenue in late December 2013. Additional removal work throughout the city is currently assigned to a contractor, and this removal work should be completed sometime in late April 2014/ early May 2014. In addition, the Urbana Street Department has several tree removals to complete once the city's bucket truck is repaired.

Fall Tree Planting Program: Doug Crabill reported that the fall tree planting program was completed right before the fall weather turned to winter weather. Several of the trees that were planted were either new trees or replacement trees. During the planting project, shrubbery was added to the city owned parking lot on East Market Street (across from the Fire Division). In addition, shrubbery was added to the islands at the city owned parking lot in the first block of Miami Street.

Invasive Plant Removal Project-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill reported that Terry Lavy of the Conservationist completed the first of two phases of honeysuckle removal last fall through foliar spray at Melvin Miller Park. The second phase will be completed in the fall of 2014. In addition, there is also a section of honeysuckle between the bike path and the houses on Old Farm Road that will need to be removed. Doug Crabill reported that the city would like to communicate with these residents prior to the removal, but he further reported that this

honeysuckle will ultimately need to be removed. The results of last fall's foliar application should be more evident this spring.

2013 Tree City USA Nomination: Doug Crabill reported that the Tree City USA application was due on December 12th, and the city met the deadline. This Tree City USA application was for the city's twelfth year of Tree City USA status.

New Business:

Election of 2014 Commission Officers: 2014 Shade Tree Commission Officers were elected at this meeting. Al Evans made a motion to nominate Doug Crabill as the chair. This motion was seconded by Earl Cottrill. All voted in favor of this nomination. In addition, Al Evans made a motion to nominate Earl Cottrill as the Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Colin Stein. All voted in favor of this nomination. Doug Crabill stated that he would continue to serve in a secretarial role by issuing agendas and preparing minutes.

Arbor Day 2014 Planning: Doug Crabill stated that he would get in touch with Elmo Layman upon his return. Elmo Layman had sent an email and offered to help coordinate Arbor Day celebrations at the local elementary schools. These celebrations are typically held in late April.

Tree City USA Awards in New Albany (April 17, 2014): Doug Crabill reported that he and Jim Lemon would be attending the Tree City USA awards program in New Albany on April 17, 2014. Due to the registration deadline, registration had to be sent quickly upon receipt of the registration materials.

2014 Goals/Projects: Doug Crabill reported that watering, inventory, and pruning efforts will need to continue in 2014.

Misc. Business: Doug Crabill reported that an Arbor Day Proclamation will be read at Urbana City Council on April 22, 2014. In addition, a brief presentation will be held for the city's 2013 Tree City USA award.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn at 7:45PM, Earl Cottrill; Al Evans, second; all in favor.