

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – November 12, 2015 at 7PM (130)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Earl Cottrill, John Kussman, Colin Stein, Doug Crabill, Ron McFarland, and Jim Lemon

Absent: Tingting Cai

Reading and Approval of Minutes (10/8/2015)

Ron McFarland made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/8/2015 as presented. Earl Cottrill seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (6-0) in favor of approving the minutes as presented.

Old Business:

Possible Changes to Chapter 905 (Trees): At this point in time, the administrative regulation regarding street trees has been 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.

Tree Removal Update: Colin Stein reported that seven trees and several stumps were recently removed by a contractor, Tree Care, Inc. with removals being completed on West Market Street, West Reynolds Street, East Church Street, and South Main Street. In addition, stumps were removed on South Walnut Street and West Reynolds Street.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Update: Jim Lemon reported that all 30 bare root trees were doing well. He suggested that the stakes be removed in the spring.

Honeysuckle Eradication-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill stated that Terry Lavy recently sprayed any missed locations at no charge. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that Terry Lavy advised that the whole area should be inspected and new growth sprayed in 3-4 years.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Planning-2016: Doug Crabill stated that the budget for this project for 2016 will be \$2,500.00 for approximately 60 trees. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that he is working with the nursery to finalize the order. Jim Lemon reported that he is working to finalize tree planting locations with a focus on reducing gaps in the tree canopy along major arteries of the city.

Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project-Tree Planting Planning: Doug Crabill reported that 45 trees were removed, and a total of 25 trees will be replanted. Jim Lemon is assisting with locations/species selection. Doug Crabill advised that he is working with the contractor to get the planting scheduled.

Memorial Tree Planting (Update): Doug Crabill reported that a total of eight orders were received by the deadline. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that thanks to John Kussman and Jim Lemon all eight trees were planted, mulched, and tree guards installed. Doug Crabill reported that 4 Bur Oak, 1 Shumard Oak, 2 Chinkapin Oak, and 1 Tricolor Beech were planted. The commission members discussed plaque options, including the option of engraved pavers. John Kussman reported that he met with Walter and Stowe Funeral Home about the Memorial Tree Program, and he reported that the funeral director was very receptive. Also, he is working to schedule a time to meet with Vernon Funeral Home.

DP&L Tree City Grant Application: Doug Crabill reported that the City of Urbana will be applying for one of these grants for tree replacement/planting in the downtown by the January 31st deadline.

New Business:

Misc. Business: None.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Ron McFarland; Jim Lemon, second; all in favor.