

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – April 14, 2016 at 7PM (132)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Colin Stein, Doug Crabill, John Kussman, and Jim Lemon

Absent: Ron McFarland, Tingting Cai, and Earl Cottrill

Reading and Approval of Minutes (3/10/2016)

Colin Stein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 3/10/2016 with the correction of one typo. John Kussman seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (4-0) in favor of approving the minutes with one minor correction to the minutes as originally prepared.

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 provided an update that the Street Department had completed a few removals throughout the city since the beginning of the calendar year. He specifically mentioned a few trees near St. Mary's Catholic Church. In addition, he mentioned tree removals on Lafayette Avenue, Boyce Street, and South Kenton Street.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Update: Jim Lemon reported that all 30 bare root trees were doing well. He stated that he removed all of the stakes with the exception of 3 trees (London Planetree) along the ditch at Oakdale Cemetery. In addition, Jim Lemon noted that one of the Hybrid Elms near the north mausoleum suffered deer damage despite the tree guard being in place on the tree.

Honeysuckle Eradication-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill stated that Terry Lavy completed a follow up visit at no charge last fall to address any honeysuckle that had not been adequately killed during the previous two fall sprayings. He advised that there are still some minor areas of green growth within the dead honeysuckle bushes. Overall, the effort was successful, but there are still some minor areas that may need sprayed again.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Planning-2016: Doug Crabill reported that all 50 trees were delivered on Tuesday, April 5, including Shingle Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Hardy Rubber Tree, London Planetree, Hophornbeam, and Turkish Filbert. He reported that the truck delivered the trees directly to the city this year. Jim Lemon reported about the plan for planting these trees with a focus on filling gaps in the urban forest/canopy along Miami Street, South Main Street, North Main Street, and Scioto Street. Doug Crabill reported that planting efforts were underway as of the meeting date with planting completion anticipated on Friday, April 15, 2016.

Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project-Tree Planting Planning: Doug Crabill reported that 45 trees were removed, and a total of 25 trees were planted in early December as part of the project. Jim Lemon noted that he had noticed any major wind impacts to these trees over the winter months.

Memorial Tree Planting (Update): Doug Crabill reported that the sample marker was on order. John Kussman offered to follow up with Doug when the marker arrived in order to make final decisions on the marker.

DP&L Tree City Grant Application: Doug Crabill reported that the City of Urbana with the Monument Square District as a partner applied by the January 31st deadline. The grant application requested approximately \$49,280.00 for the replacement of the street trees within Monument Square and one block out from Monument Square, including the repair of hardscapes around the trees. Doug Crabill stated that he should receive word on the grant within the next week or two.

TRECYCLE 2016-Mr. Brent Devitt: Doug Crabill reported that cyclist; Mr. Brent Devitt of Beaver Creek had donated toward the planting of some of the bare root trees at Melvin Miller Park. Doug Crabill reported that Mr. Devitt is a cyclist who is organizing a bike ride through the area with an emphasis on raising funds to plant trees along the regional bike trail. Mr. Devitt will be riding through Urbana on Monday, April 18, 2016, and Doug will be meeting him for a photo opportunity.

Tree City USA Awards-Westerville-April 21st: Doug Crabill stated Mayor Bean, Jim Lemon, and himself will be attending this awards program on behalf of the city.

New Business:

Arbor Day: Doug Crabill reported that Mayor Bean will read an Arbor Day Proclamation at the Urbana City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 6PM. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that an Arbor Day observance and tree planting will be held at the Urbana University Student Center on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 1PM.

Misc. Business: Colin Stein reported that the recent wind storm only resulted in major damage to one tree in the city, a Bradford Pear, on Lafayette Avenue.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Colin Stein; Jim Lemon, second; all in favor.