

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – March 10, 2016 at 7PM (131)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Earl Cottrill, John Kussman, Colin Stein, Doug Crabill, Tingting Cai, and Jim Lemon

Absent: Ron McFarland

Reading and Approval of Minutes (11/12/2015)

John Kussman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/12/2015 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: Doug Crabill asked Colin Stein to submit any recent removals to Jim Lemon for an update of the tree inventory records.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Update: Jim Lemon reported that all 30 bare root trees were doing well. He stated that he would be removing the stakes so that the stakes could be reused for this spring's bare root tree planting. Jim Lemon reported that he may leave stakes on a few of the trees if the stakes are still required.

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.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Planning-2016: Doug Crabill reported that 50 trees were on order, including Shingle Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Hardy Rubber Tree, London Planetree, Hophornbeam, and Turkish Filbert. Doug Crabill stated that delivery is anticipated in April, and the truck will deliver 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. A few of the trees will be used as replacement trees for a few of the ash replacement trees that were planted a few years ago.

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. Furthermore, he stated that the contractor has offered to provide Gator bags this summer for

watering. Doug Crabill confirmed that Jim Lemon had already entered these trees into the street tree inventory database.

Memorial Tree Planting (Update): Doug Crabill reported that all eight trees were planted last fall. However, he stated that the plaques still need to be selected, ordered, and installed. John Kussman provided background information on the red brick engraved pavers that are available from Bryce Hill. Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the purchase of a sample brick (4" x 8") with the wording "City of Urbana Memorial Tree Program". Colin Stein seconded this motion. All members in attendance voted (6-0) in favor of approving the purchase of a sample brick.

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. Grant awards are anticipated to be announced around Arbor Day.

New Business:

TRECYCLE 2016-Mr. Brent Devitt: Doug Crabill reported that he was contact by Mr. Brent Devitt of Beaver creek. 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. Doug Crabill reported that he has offered some of the bare root trees for this project in Melvin Miller Park.

Tree City USA Awards-Westerville-April 21st: Doug Crabill provided the information on this program in April, and he asked for members to let him know soon if they would be attending.

Arbor Day: Doug Crabill reported that he was thinking that no additional trees should be planted at the existing elementary schools due to the building project. In lieu of an Arbor Day observance/celebration at each of the elementary schools, Tingting Cai mentioned that Urbana University is planning an observance/celebration on campus. The board members felt that a combined effort this year might be best.

Misc. Business: Jim Lemon reported about his attendance at the Tree Commission Academy. He is now finishing up his senior year with a senior project to develop the planting plan for the US 36 East Project. Jim Lemon also mentioned Shelly Moore's Tree Stewards Program in Bellefontaine, and he mentioned that Urbana has been invited to participate.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Colin Stein; Earl Cottrill, second; all in favor.