

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 13, 2016 at 7PM (135)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Doug Crabill, John Kussman, Jim Lemon, and Tingting Cai

Absent: Ron McFarland, Colin Stein, and Earl Cottrill

Reading and Approval of Minutes (7/14/2016)

Jim Lemon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/14/2016 as prepared. John Kussman seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (4-0) in favor of approving the minutes as 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: Doug Crabill reported that the city had sought quotes for tree removal work, and he reported that over \$17,000.00 worth of work had been contracted to Tree Care, Inc. He reported that this contractor had previously completed tree removals at 1052 South Main Street and 546 South Main Street. In addition, he reported that the contractor had recently completed removals on Boyce Street, East Church Street, Scioto Street, and Lincoln Place.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2016) (Update): Jim Lemon reported that fifty (50) trees, including Shingle Oak, Chinkapin Oak, Hardy Rubber Tree, London Planetree, Hophornbeam, and Turkish Filbert were planted. Furthermore, Jim Lemon reported that there had not been any additional victims of tree mortality. However, he stated that some of the trees did appear to be weak or struggling. Conversely, he reported that some of the trees have flushed out extensive new growth. Lastly, Jim Lemon reported that more of the bamboo stakes were vandalized on Miami Street.

Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project-Tree Planting (Update): Doug Crabill reported that 45 trees were removed as part of the project, and a total of 25 trees were planted in early December 2015 as part of the project. Doug Crabill reported that these trees were doing well.

2016 Street Tree Inventory Update: Doug Crabill will provide tree removal data to Jim Lemon for input into the inventory database.

2016 Oakdale Cemetery Inventory Update: Jim Lemon reported that no progress will be able to be made on this inventory effort at Oakdale Cemetery without the assistance of other commission members. He further reported that this inventory may not be completed for 2016.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Doug Crabill reported that he and Jim Lemon trimmed all of the young trees along the Scioto Street commercial area. In addition, he reported that they also trimmed the ornamental trees along East Water Street. Jim Lemon advised that some additional winter pruning in these areas may be necessary.

Memorial Tree-Mr. Elmo Layman: Doug Crabill reported that Mr. Elmo Layman, a founding member of the Urbana Shade Tree Commission, had passed away in Arizona on June 30, 2016. Over Labor Day weekend, a memorial service was held in Urbana, and Doug Crabill attended the service. Furthermore, Doug Crabill spoke at the service about Elmo's efforts to champion the tree program in Urbana for so many years. Doug Crabill reported that enough donations were raised to purchase and plant two memorial trees at Oakdale Cemetery in honor and memory of Elmo. Lastly, Doug Crabill reported that an Amur Cork Tree and Oak would be planted in Elmo's memory.

New Business:

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2017): Doug Crabill reported on the availability of the tree species that were selected by Jim Lemon for next year's program. A total of forty (40) trees will be ordered for next spring, and Doug Crabill will be ordering these trees soon for spring delivery.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2016 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that thirteen (13) trees were purchased as memorial trees for fall 2016 planting. In addition, he reported that the dog park group had purchased two trees for Fido's Field (the dog park at Melvin Miller Park). Doug Crabill reported that the order would be placed soon with planting anticipated around Thanksgiving.

Misc. Business: The group discussed options for improving the North Main Street streetscape between Bloomfield Avenue and Dellinger Road through selective tree planting projects. Underground utilities were noted to be a challenge to planting in this area. Jim Lemon provided a planting plan, including recommended species for next summer's sidewalk and drainage project on US 36 East. John Kussman reported that some of last year's memorial trees are becoming covered by dirt and mulch. He suggested that some of these markers be raised.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, John Kussman; Jim Lemon, second; all in favor.