

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – July 12, 2018 at 7:00PM (147)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: John Kussman, Earl Cottrill, Ward Lutz, Colin Stein, and Doug Crabill

Absent: Tingting Cai and Jim Lemon

Reading and Approval of Minutes (6/14/2018)

Ward Lutz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6/14/2018 as prepared. Earl Cottrill seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (5-0) 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). In 2018, the commission plans to finalize and send changes to this ordinance to Urbana City Council for their review and approval. The plan is for city staff to draft an amended ordinance and then seek input about the draft from other city staff and the commission. One of the proposed ordinance amendments is to update to reflect how tree planting permits have been historically handled by the city. Since the ordinance was written, no permits have been formally issued by the city for tree planting.

Tree & Stump Removal Update: Doug Crabill reported that a list of 10-12 poor trees had been given to the Street Dept. for completion by city forces, and that these tree removals will be scheduled before the end of summer. The balance of the trees will require contracting with tree and stump removal contractors to complete the remaining work. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that several removal proposals had been received by the city, and these proposals are currently being reviewed.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Jim Lemon reported that additional trimming and cleanup is required this summer, including water sprouts, low hanging branches on young trees, etc. As summer progresses, the commission agreed to schedule work days to complete these tasks are required with a focus on Scioto Street, East Water Street, and the Park Avenue Bouvelard.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2017 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that the Randall tree is exhibiting stress and some Japanese Beetle activity. This tree will need to be monitored as the summer progresses.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2018): Doug Crabill reported that Jim Lemon had restaked one of the trees at 331 South Main Street per a resident request. Otherwise, the bareroot tree planting is doing well.

Karen Kerns Dresser-Tree Program Donation; Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum: Doug Crabill reported that Lisa Bowers had recently visited Oakdale Cemetery to update inventory records for some of the State Champion trees in Oakdale Cemetery. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that Kerry Brugger had drafted the first draft of the application for ArbNet certification for Oakdale Cemetery.

New Business:

Street Tree Inventory Update: Doug Crabill reported that Jim Lemon plans to start the street tree inventory update soon, and he has requested the assistance of fellow commission members in this effort.

Misc. Business: John Kussman offered to research the purchase of a tree sling or cart for proper placement of balled and burlapped plant material. After researching options, he offered to present his findings to the commission for further consideration.

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