

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – August 13, 2020 at 5:00PM (158)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Doug Crabill, Ward Lutz, Jim Lemon, Colin Stein, Charles Moody, and Doug George.

Reading and Approval of Minutes (7/9/2020)

The minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting were not prepared in time for the meeting. No action was taken on these minutes.

Old Business:

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Commission members discussed areas of the city that require trimming/pruning. Specific areas discussed were as follows: Scioto Street, US 36 East, East Water Street, and recently planted bareroot trees.

Memorial Tree Program Update: Doug Crabill reported that the listing of Memorial Trees is due to be updated. In addition, he reported that the recent dry spell with dry winds may have resulted in some mortality of recently planted trees. Doug Crabill and Jim Lemon watered all of the trees, but a few of them may have received water too late.

Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum Update: Doug Crabill reported that the goal in 2020 is to submit an accreditation application to ArbNet (Morton Arboretum) for certification of Oak Dale Cemetery as a Level 1 arboretum. Kerry Brugger has already prepared a draft application. A minimum of twenty-five species are required to qualify as a Level 1 Arboretum. Over time, part of this effort will include an updated inventory of trees at Oak Dale Cemetery, including GPS coordinates for each tree. Doug Crabill reported that he would be participating in an upcoming webinar regarding ArbNet certification.

-Karen Kerns Dresser Donation: At the July meeting, Doug Crabill had shared a conceptual name for the arboretum at Oak Dale Cemetery in honor of Karen. The conceptual name was Greenwood Arboretum at Oak Dale Cemetery in Memory of Karen Kerns Dresser. He requested that the commission make a recommendation to adopt this name with approval of the Oak Dale Cemetery Board and Urbana City Council to follow. Charles Moody made a motion to recommend the name of Greenwood Arboretum at Oak Dale Cemetery in Memory of Karen Kerns Dresser, and Jim Lemon seconded this motion. All in attendance voted 6-0 in favor of this naming recommendation.

-Policies and Procedures: Doug Crabill explained that the Shade Tree Commission will need to develop policies and procedures that will address items not specifically addressed by the tree ordinance. Wooster, OH has a great example of policies and procedures. Potential policies include removal, owner planted trees, road/right of way blockage, reasons to warrant removal, planting/site preparation, and tree canopy goals.

-Tree Program Funding: Doug Crabill explained that funding options would continue to be explored in the future, including a potential rewrite of the compost ordinance to include some type of fee for street trees.

-Watering/Mulching: Doug Crabill reported that the staff at Oak Dale Cemetery had been able to mulch the newest trees to conserve moisture, and he reported that Bob Jumper had assigned a staff member to water trees at Oak Dale Cemetery. Jim Lemon reported that he had teamed with the park staff to water at Melvin Miller Park during the recent dry weather.

New Business:

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2020 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that he was working on a press release for applications for the fall 2020 planting for the Memorial Tree Program. He reported that he had already received three applications. In addition, he reported that the program this year would include tree planting at the Old Graveyard at the intersection of North Kenton Street and East Ward Street.

Misc. Business: Doug Crabill reported that ODNR was offering free webinars in place of the yearly fall conference. Members were encouraged to sign up and participate on their own.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Colin Stein; Doug George, second; all in favor (6-0).