

## **City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes-September 14, 2023 at 4:30PM (179)**

### **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Present: Jim Lemon; Doug Crabill; Stephanie Truelove; Lynn Mintchell; and Ryan Lantz, City Parks Supervisor (Public Works Representative)

Absent: Cindy Dunham, Doug George, Tracy Brock

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes (8/17/2023)**

The minutes from the August 2023 meeting were reviewed. Stephanie Truelove motioned to accept the minutes with edits, and Lynn Mintchell seconded this motion. August 2023 minutes were approved 5-0.

### **Old Business:**

Memorial Tree Update: Ryan Lantz discussed review of Memorial Trees and markers at Melvin Miller Park. Two markers were found to be damaged and will be replaced. All markers at the park are now uniformly set. Changes in management should help moving forward. Mulching will be done as time allows. The Commission recommends similar process at Oak Dale.

We will plan on 10 Memorial Trees for fall planting, 4 from submitted applications, 6 purchased with donated funds (Kerns). This will supplement tree diversity at Oak Dale and contribute to our species list for the Arboretum. Doug Crabill has the new Brown & Sons catalog and will draft a tree selection for review. Our normal process has included a number of oak trees, Brown & Sons wait for tree dormancy before they dig fall trees. This has meant tree delivery in late Nov, early Dec.

Fall Pruning: Ryan Lantz has been pruning at the park and on Water St as his time allows. Pruning was also requested and completed on US36 near TSC. Pruning is needed on Scioto and other street tree locations. Damage pruning is also needed on Miami when the paving is complete.

Urbana Web site/Tree Commission page: Doug Crabill will get Tracy Brock added to the Commission membership list and add the minutes from 2023 meetings. Jim suggested removing Amur Cork from list of recommended trees since this species is now listed as invasive.

Oak Dale Cemetery Arboretum – no update. Kerry Brugger and Jim Lemon plan to meet at Oak Dale.

2022 Tree City USA Application Update: Doug Crabill will research the Growth Award Application.

No progress on Street Tree Inventory. Data needs validation by walking the streets. The last update was 2020.

### **New Business:**

Spring Bareroot Planning: We will pursue two orders for spring planting: one each from Brotzman's and Schichtel's. We will need to work through a new process of receiving and handling bareroot stock.

Removals: Jim got a copy of a removal permit (this was the first and only). A letter went to property owners that had trees with issues. It would be helpful to know who received letters and what work has been done.

This led to a wide-ranging discussion of the Shade Tree Ordinance, property own responsibilities, and resources. Jim also contributed on his recent discussions with Mark Muirhead (Street Supervisor) and Davey Tree regarding needed street clearance and a Davey service for Programmatic Planning for Urbana trees. Essentially, Davey Resource Group could provide inventory and planning reports that would help manage our street trees. The prepared proposal is being distributed to Commission members. The Commission members present were supportive of the proposal but also understand resource constraints.

Deer damage: Young bucks are now active and busy at a number of our trees. Ryan and Jim have been replacing tree guards as they see activity.

**Meeting adjourned:** Motion to adjourn made by Stephanie Truelove and seconded by Lynn Mintchell. All in favor 5-0.