

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – June 13, 2019 at 7:00PM (151)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Doug Crabill, Ward Lutz, Jim Lemon, and John Kussman

Absent: Colin Stein & Earl Cottrill

Guest: Kerry Brugger

Reading and Approval of Minutes (4/11/2019)

Jim Lemon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 4/11/2019 as prepared. Ward Lutz 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): Discussion continued in regards to making changes to Chapter 905 (Trees). Jim Lemon explained that the 10 foot rule from underground utilities is problematic in areas where Columbia Gas has run new gas mains under the sidewalks and parallel to the tree lawn areas. For example, large sections of Lincoln Place and Boyce Street could no longer be planted with trees if this rule was applied to this situation. Doug Crabill shared his thoughts about using columnar trees for smaller spaces vs. completely eliminating plantings in narrower tree lawns. In addition, there was broad discussion about placing tree regulations into ordinance form vs. board policy. Doug Crabill promised to email the latest draft of the revised ordinance to obtain written feedback from members in anticipation of the next meeting.

Tree & Stump Removal Update: Colin Stein and Kerry Brugger reported that a city contractor was working to complete additional tree and stump removals throughout the city this summer. In addition, they reported that some additional tree and stump removal work may be contracted out later this year at Oakdale Cemetery.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Doug Crabill asked for help in finishing the necessary tree trimming on East Water Street (Crabapples) as well as some general pruning and cleanup of trees in the commercial area of Scioto Street. He further stated that he hoped to be able to remove any dead bareroot trees during that same workday.

Memorial Tree Program Update: Jim Lemon and John Kussman reported that they had installed all of the Memorial Tree markers prior to the Memorial Day holiday. Ward Lutz offered to adjust the tree marker for the DAR tree that was planted at the Champaign County Historical Society last fall.

Karen Kerns Dresser-Tree Planting Update: Doug Crabill reported that one tree was damaged by a falling tree, and this damaged tree was replaced with a new bareroot tree.

Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum Update: The application has been started and is currently in draft form. The completed application for ArbNet accreditation will be submitted by the fall of 2019.

Bare Root Tree Planting (Spring 2019): Jim Lemon noted that all of the bareroot trees had been planted and had leafed out. He also reported that there may be some mortality of previous year's plantings due to ice damage and cold winters.

Arbor Day 2019: Doug Crabill reported that he attended the Tree City USA Awards in Bexley. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that a tree planting ceremony will be held at the new PreK-8 school in observance of Arbor Day when school starts back up in the fall.

New Business:

Misc. Business: None.

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