

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – May 19, 2022 at 7:00PM (169)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Jim Lemon, Doug Crabill, Stephanie Truelove, Doug George, and Mark Muirhead

Absent: Charles Moody

Introduction: Cindy Dunham, New Urbana Shade Tree Commission Member

Guest: Alistair Reynolds, Central Ohio Regional Urban Forester; Ohio Division of Natural Resources

Reading and Approval of Minutes (4/14/2022)

The minutes from the April 14, 2022 meeting were approved as prepared. Jim Lemon motioned to accept these minutes, and Mark Muirhead seconded this motion. This set of minutes was approved unanimously 6-0.

Old Business:

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Mark Muirhead provided an update that limb clearance work would continue in the city as time permits.

Memorial Tree Program Update (Update Listing & GPS/GIS Update): Doug Crabill reported that efforts continue to update all Memorial Tree records into the city's GPS/GIS system to include multiple database fields, including Latitude/Longitude coordinates.

Oak Dale Cemetery-Arboretum Update: Doug Crabill reported that he hoped to submit the accreditation application to ArbNet (Morton Arboretum) for certification of Oak Dale Cemetery as a Level 1 arboretum soon from the draft application that Kerry Brugger had put together.

Karen Kerns Dresser Donation (Naming & Sign): Doug Crabill stated that Kerry Brugger reported that proposals for a new sign at the Oak Dale Cemetery entrance for Greenwood Arboretum had been received and that the proposed sign would be similar in material and style to the existing sign for Oak Dale Cemetery. In addition, new landscaping was previously installed at the Oak Dale Cemetery entrance in the fall of 2021.

Policies and Procedures (Administrative Regulation): Doug Crabill explained that the Shade Tree Commission will need to continue 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. Kerry Brugger previously provided a draft document for a process flow for tree removals based on tree inventory results for review/evaluation by the commission. Doug Crabill shared that he would be working

with other city staff to develop a notification process to initiate tree removals where needed by property owners.

Mulching: Doug Crabill reported that he worked with Ryan Lantz to purchase mulch through Mad River Mulch. Mark Muirhead reported that one of Ryan's staff members planned to pick up the mulch the following day. Prior to Memorial Day, Doug Crabill stated he wanted to get mulch placed around the Memorial Trees at Melvin Miller Park that were not mulched last fall when they were installed.

Bareroot Trees: Doug Crabill mentioned that he had spoken to Scott Wiesler, SoilMoist sales representative, at the Tree City USA Awards in Mt. Vernon the prior week. Scott Wiesler suggested Schichtel's Nursery near Buffalo, NY for bareroot stock. Doug Crabill had requested an availability list, but he had not received any response. Alistair Reynolds reported that more communities were seeing the value in bareroot trees. He mentioned that Upper Arlington is using an air spade to expose tree roots prior to planting.

Fall 2021 Memorial Tree Program: Doug Crabill reported that markers were ordered from Bryce Hill for the sixteen (16) Memorial Trees that were planted at the Melvin Miller Park and Oak Dale Cemetery in the fall of 2021. He asked for help with installation of these markers prior to Memorial Day.

Arbor Day/Earth Day-Johnny Appleseed Museum-April 23rd: Doug Crabill reported that the collaboration with the Johnny Appleseed Museum for Arbor Day/Earth Day had gone well. Furthermore, he reported that twelve Johnny Appleseed apple trees were planted just west of the former Browne Hall on College Way, and he mentioned that these trees share genetics with a tree originally planted by Johnny Appleseed in Ashland County, Ohio.

Tree City USA Awards-Mt. Vernon-April 21st: Doug Crabill mentioned that he had attended the Tree City USA Awards at Ariel Foundation Park in Mt. Vernon on April 21st. The City of Urbana received its Tree City USA award for its 20th year as a Tree City USA. Doug Crabill encouraged everyone to visit or check out this park.

New Business:

Dr. E.W.B. Curry-Memorial Tree & Bur Oak @ PreK-8 School: Doug Crabill reported that students at Urbana Junior High had spearheaded an effort to plant a Memorial Tree at Oak Dale Cemetery in memory of Dr. E.W.B. Curry near the family gravesite. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that he had brought home a Bur Oak from the Tree City USA awards in Mt. Vernon that he had offered to plant on the school campus.

Misc. Business: Alistair Reynolds provided his background and shared that he had taken Lisa Bowers' position as Central Ohio Regional Urban Forester upon Lisa's recent retirement. He offered to host a pruning workshop for local Public Works/Street Dept. staff members where neighboring communities could be invited to attend. Doug Crabill also suggested that Alistair try to attend one of the local community collaboration programs to share more about the Tree City USA program with other communities in Champaign County.

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