

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – November 2013 (114)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Al Evans, Doug Crabill, Tingting Cai, and Colin Stein

Absent: Elmo Layman, Ron McFarland, and Earl Cottrill.

Reading and Approval of Minutes (10/10/2013):

Al Evans made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/10/2013 as presented. Colin Stein seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving the minutes as presented.

Old Business:

Possible Changes to Chapter 905 (Trees): Doug Crabill again reiterated that the city has moved away from the use of the administrative regulation for tree removal. At this point in time, this administrative regulation will be eliminated and changes will be made to Chapter 905 (Trees). Staff will continue to work with the Shade Tree Commission, City Council, and the community to garner input for these revisions. The goal is to get these changes made in early 2014.

2013 Tree Inventory Update (Street Trees and Cemetery): Doug Crabill reported that the 2013 street tree and cemetery inventories have been compiled into the Excel database, and these inventories are available on the city website. This information is being used to prioritize tree removal work. In addition, Elmo Layman has written three articles for the newspaper that compared tree inventory data from ten years ago to the current data.

Tree Removal Update: Doug Crabill stated that the 2013 inventory data is being used to prioritize removal needs based on what trees the city can safely remove and which trees will require a contractor. Furthermore, Doug Crabill reported that several tree removal projects have been completed in recent months. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that the large oak tree at the corner of North Kenton Street and East Ward Street as well as a tree at 336 East Church Street were removed by a contractor on October 14, 2013. Doug Crabill reported that additional removal work is planned prior to the end of 2013.

Tree Maintenance Update: Doug Crabill reported that routine watering efforts have been unnecessary this fall due to adequate rainfall. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that some young tree pruning is planned for this winter along the four lane section of Scioto Street and in front of Speedway North.

Fall Tree Planting Program: Doug Crabill reported that the fall tree planting program should be completed by year end. Doug Crabill reported that there are several replacement trees to be planted this fall. In addition, a few applications for new trees were received.

Invasive Plant Removal Project-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill reported that Terry Lavy of the Conservationist had recently completed the first of two phases of honeysuckle removal through foliar spray at Melvin Miller Park. The second phase will be completed in the fall of 2014. There is also a section of honeysuckle between the bike path and the houses on Old Farm Road that will need to be removed. Doug Crabill reported that the city would like to communicate with these residents prior to the removal, but he further reported that this honeysuckle will ultimately need to be removed.

New Business:

Recap Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference: Doug Crabill reported that five tree commission members attended the Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference in Columbus on October 17th. Doug Crabill shared that the conference was informative. Furthermore, he shared information about the tree inventory efforts being conducted by the City of Columbus using handheld GPS devices.

2013 Tree City USA Nomination: Doug Crabill reported that Tree City USA applications are due on December 12th. The City of Urbana will be submitting an application for its twelfth year of Tree City USA status.

Misc. Business: Doug Crabill reported that Mayor Bean will be making commission appointments/reappointments in the near future for 2014.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Colin Stein; Al Evans, second; all in favor.