

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Jim Lemon; Doug Crabill; Stephanie Truelove; Lynn Mintchell; Doug George; Cindy Dunham; and Deb Aksenczuk, City of Urbana Operations Coordinator (Public Works Representative)

Tracy Brock was introduced as a new candidate for the tree commission.

Reading and Approval of Minutes (April 13, 2023)

The minutes from the April 13, 2023 meeting were approved as prepared. Doug George motioned to accept these minutes as prepared, and Stephanie Truelove seconded this motion. This set of minutes was approved unanimously 7-0.

Old Business:

Memorial Tree Program: Doug Crabill has ordered the markers for the 4 memorial trees that were recently planted and the 1 that the YMCA planted on Arbor Day. Once they come in they will need to be placed by the trees. Jim Lemon has done some pruning of the trees at the park. It was suggested once the markers come in we will need to assist in placing them. Jim Lemon also suggested that it would be helpful if someone would volunteer to take on the job of keeping the markers cleaned and manage their placement at the park and cemetery.

*Listing Update (2020 forward) There is a State Champion Post Oak located on the south side of Oak Dale Cemetery that is declining and may need to be replaced. We also have several Amur Cork Trees at Oak Dale Cemetery that were previously designated as State Champions. Doug Crabill suggested that Jim Lemon reach out to Alistair Reynolds with ODNR for assistance with the status of previously listed State Champion trees.

*GPS/GIS Update: Deb Aksenczuk is helping get the location of trees updated and reconciled with the list in the system. She handed out the tree commission list with the trees and locations that were last updated in 2020. She stated that all the trees have not been listed with the GPS/GIS system yet but is a work in progress.

Oak Dale Cemetery Arboretum Update: Trees at Oak Dale will need to be inventoried and tagged. We are an official Green Arboretum (Level 1) and will announced to the public in June. Please keep this quiet until that time. There will be a sign to be placed at the cemetery and dedicated to Karen Dresser.

2022 Tree City USA Application/Award-Update/Recap: Doug stated he submitted the application on December 2nd. The requirements are as follows:

1. Must have a tree board/commission
2. Current tree ordinance which was last updated in 2020
3. \$2.00 per capita on urban forestry related activities
4. Yearly Arbor Day celebration

Doug stated that he went to Groveport on April 19th for the Tree City Award Ceremony for the Central Ohio Region and accepted the award for Urbana.

Memorial Trees (Fall 2022)- Marker installation: Will need to be done as soon as the markers come in.

Oak Dale Cemetery-Newer Tree Plantings-Mulching-We will coordinate the mulching and placement of markers. This needs to be soon and hoping to get it completed as soon as the markers come in.

Arbor Day-A celebration was held at the YMCA and a tree was planted. Jim Lemon suggested someone take over the Arbor Day Celebration organization and call around to potential places for next years celebration. Doug Crabill suggested Freedom Grove, the school and YMCA as possible locations to plant new trees. Doug also stated that possibly the Rotary Club would be willing to replace some of the trees that have been lost that were planted at the school.

Newer Tree Pruning: Jim Lemon stated that there was a tree by the dog park that was damaged, a tulip tree by the ditch that the deer have gotten to and the newly planted trees at the cemetery need to be looked at.

New Business:

Discuss Meeting Dates and Times for 2023/Schedule: It was decided that the meeting would remain the second Thursday of the month but will be held at the Deck located at the park and the time will be 4:30pm.

Open Commission Positions: Tracy Brock is guest tonight and is interested in a position. There are still positions open for alternates so if anyone knows of someone who would be interested please notify Jim Lemon or Doug Crabill with their name.

Plan for watering: Jim Lemon reminded us of the importance of watering the new trees and there are several that are need of watering. Doug Crabill stated that he reached out last year to the park maintenance team and they were willing to help keep the trees watered. We need to come up with a plan to make sure the trees get watered this year.

Bare Root planting: This is still a concern and we are still looking for a resource that is affordable and carry the bare root trees.

Outreach-article for Citizen: Jim Lemon said that the Urban Forestry website has templates and he will find links for members to view.

Tree Condition Report (Update Excel Sheet)-Street Trees: We have the data base of city street trees that was done in 2020. There is a need to walk the streets and view the condition of current trees and document any damage or trimming that needs to be done or stumps that need removed. There is a process to notify home owners of dead trees, damaged and other tree issues that need to be taken care of that follows the tree ordinance that was established 4 years ago.

Misc. Business:

Meeting adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by Stephanie Truelove and seconded by Doug Crabill. All in favor 7-0.