

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 10, 2019 at 7:00PM (154)

Roll Call and Introductions:

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

Absent: Earl Cottrill

Reading and Approval of Minutes (7/18/2019) & (9/12/2019)

John Kussman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/18/2019 and 9/12/2019 as prepared. Ward Lutz seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (5-0) in favor of approving the minutes as prepared.

Old Business:

Possible Changes to Chapter 905 (Trees): During this meeting, members of the commission continued to review the most recent draft of the tree ordinance update. Jim Lemon shared information about a methodology that had been developed by Purdue University for determining the value of trees that may be cut down without permission, vandalized, damaged, or run over. Colin Stein stated that a tree is an asset in which the value only increases over time as the tree grows and matures. The commission discussed whether such a methodology should be outlined in ordinance (statutory) vs. policy, and the commission agreed that an ordinance should outline value recovery in some fashion, but the exact method for determining value would be a policy vs. ordinance. Doug Crabill shared that the tree ordinance update should start to move through the legislative process in November.

Tree & Stump Removal Update: Colin Stein reported that a city contractor had completed all of the planned tree removals, including the completion of stump grinding and the removal of the grindings. He further reported that future tree inventory efforts will be used to determine future tree removals, but this year's removal effort will have significantly reduced the trees requiring removal.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Doug Crabill reported that additional tree trimming work will be required citywide during the winter months as weather permits.

Memorial Tree Program Update: Doug Crabill reported that nine orders were received for this year's program, and he stated the orders were split evenly between Oakdale Cemetery and Melvin Miller Park. He also mentioned the goal to plant additional trees at Oakdale Cemetery this fall from the funds donated by the estate of Karen Kerns Dresser.

Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum Update: Doug Crabill again reported that his first focus was to get the tree ordinance revision completed before continuing work on the ArbNet application.

Arbor Day 2019-Urbana Elementary School: Doug Crabill reported that a tree planting ceremony was being planned at the new PreK-8 school in observance of Arbor Day, and he was waiting to confirm delivery of the trees to be planted at the school this fall by the Urbana Rotary Club.

-Karen Kerns Dresser Tree Funding-Fall 2019 Plantings: Doug Crabill reported that Kerry Brugger and Bob Jumper were working to determine tree planting locations. In addition, he shared that an additional ten trees will be planted this fall.

New Business:

Bareroot-Spring 2020 Tree Order: Doug Crabill reported that he has had a difficulty making contact with Bailey Nurseries (Carlton Plants) this year. He will continue to try to make contact.

Misc. Business: None.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Jim Lemon; Ward Lutz, second; all in favor (5-0).