

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 2013 (113)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Ron McFarland, Al Evans, Earl Cottrill, Elmo Layman, and Doug Crabill. Tingting Cai arrived toward the end of the meeting due to another commitment.

Absent: Colin Stein

Reading and Approval of Minutes (7/11/2013 & 8/15/2013 & 9/12/2013):

Minutes were available to approve for all three of these meetings. Al Evans made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes as presented. Ron McFarland seconded the motion. All members 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 2013.

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 now available on the city website. This information is now being used to prioritize tree removal plans. In addition, Elmo Layman is writing several articles for the newspaper that will compare tree inventory data from ten years ago to the current data. Doug Crabill has been working with Chris Boettcher to compile the requested data using the tree inventory databases for the street trees and cemetery. In addition, Tyler Bumbalough has created a pdf of the cemetery section map that is readily available on the city website for users of the cemetery tree inventory.

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 will be removed by a contractor on October 14, 2013.

Tree Maintenance Update: Elmo Layman reported that watering has slowed down due to the heavier rainfall in recent weeks.

Fall Tree Planting Program: Doug Crabill reported that a fall tree planting program is planned. The goal is to plant at least 30 trees. There has already been some interest in the program. Doug

Crabill reported that interested parties have until October 11, 2013 to submit an application for the program. Doug Crabill reported that he has received a few applications. In addition, he reported that there are several replacement trees to be planted this fall.

New Business

Invasive Plant Removal Project-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill reported that the proposal with a firm to remove invasive honeysuckle at Melvin Miller Park has been finalized. The firm will be tackling half of the project this fall, and the remaining half next fall.

Misc: Doug Crabill reported that five tree commission members are registered to attend the Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference in Columbus on October 17th.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Tingting Cai; Earl Cottrill, second; all in favor.