

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – April 9, 2015 at 7PM (124)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Doug Crabill, Ron McFarland, John Kussman, and Earl Cottrill

Absent: Jim Lemon, Tingting Cai, and Colin Stein

Guest: Elmo Layman

Reading and Approval of Minutes (10/16/2014) & (11/13/2014) & (3/12/2015)

Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/16/2014, 11/13/2014, and 3/12/2015 as presented. Ron McFarland seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving all three sets of minutes as presented.

Old Business:

Possible Changes to Chapter 905 (Trees): At this point in time, the administrative regulation regarding street trees has been 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 2015.

Tree Removal Update: Doug Crabill stated that the 2013 and 2014 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. Based on funding availability, more removals are planned in 2015 once work is assigned to contractors or city crews.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2015): Doug Crabill stated the bareroot tree order was picked up at Natorp's in Mason on March 16, 2015. The following species were purchased as part of the order: London Planetree, Bur Oak, and Hybrid Elm. Doug Crabill reported that all 30 trees had been planted recently. He further reported that the Urbana Veterinary Clinic provided space for storage and care of the trees until they were planted. Lastly, Doug Crabill reported that all 30 trees need staked, mulched, and tree guards installed.

Memorial Tree Planting Program Development: Doug Crabill reported that the details of the city's memorial tree program had been finalized based on feedback provided at the last meeting, and he shared these details. Jim Lemon was instrumental in finalizing these details. The final step is to complete a form and distribute the form to the public.

New Business:

Tree Inventories: Doug Crabill stated that tree inventory efforts for street trees and the cemetery will begin in earnest in May. Doug Crabill will provide previous inventories as a starting point.

Misc. Business:

The Tree City USA Awards will be held in Bellefontaine on April 16, 2015. Doug Crabill, Earl Cottrill, Elmo Layman, Jim Lemon, and Mayor Bill Bean will be attending.

Doug Crabill mentioned that registration is still available for Tree Commission Academy in Reynoldsburg on May 13th and 14th. Jim Lemon is already registered to attend.

Elmo Layman provided the schedule for Arbor Day observances in the City of Urbana. Doug Crabill will distribute this information.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn at 8:00PM, Earl Cottrill; Ron McFarland, second; all in favor.