

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 11, 2018 at 7:00PM (149)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Ward Lutz, Jim Lemon, John Kussman, Colin Stein, and Doug Crabill. Earl Cottrill joined the meeting at 7:13PM.

Absent: Tingting Cai

Reading and Approval of Minutes (9/13/2018)

Jim Lemon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/13/2018 as prepared. Colin Stein 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): At this point in time, the administrative regulation regarding street trees has been eliminated, and changes will be made to Chapter 905 (Trees). In 2018, the commission plans to finalize and send changes to this ordinance to Urbana City Council for their review and approval. The plan is for city staff to draft an amended ordinance and then seek input about the draft from other city staff and the commission. One of the proposed ordinance amendments is to update to reflect how tree planting permits have been historically handled by the city. Since the ordinance was written, no permits have been formally issued by the city for tree planting. The current goal is to begin the update process for this ordinance before the end of 2018 with adoption in early 2019.

Tree & Stump Removal Update: Doug Crabill reported that seven (7) tree and stump removals had been recently contracted out, and the completion of this work is anticipated before year end. In addition, several removals are currently in progress by a contractor at Oakdale Cemetery. Lastly, Doug Crabill reported that the recent street tree inventory data is being used to prioritize additional tree and stump removals.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Doug Crabill reported that additional trimming is planned before year end on East Water Street and for other young tree plantings in the city.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2017 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that the Randall tree and the Simpson tree will require replacement this fall. In addition, he reported that the Burnett marker will require replacement. Lastly, the Stickley tree may also require replacement due to deer damage.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2018): Jim Lemon reported that the majority of the bare root plantings that were planted in the spring are doing okay. However, he did mention that a few were exhibiting stress after the summer months. Ultimately, a few trees will have to be reevaluated in the spring to determine if they have leafed out or not.

Karen Kerns Dresser-Tree Program Donation; Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum: Doug Crabill reported that the Kerns family is unable to attend a tree planting ceremony on October 11th. Furthermore, he stated that he is working to confirm a date and time that is conducive to the family. More than likely, this ceremony will be held in late November or early December.

Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum: The application has been started and is currently in draft form. The completed application for ArbNet accreditation is anticipated in late 2018/early 2019.

Street Tree Inventory Update: Jim Lemon and John Kussman reported that the street tree inventory update is complete. Doug Crabill stated that this data will be used to determine future removal priorities.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2018 Orders/Planting): Doug Crabill reported that approximately 20-22 trees will be part of the fall order, including replacement trees and memorial trees.

Arbor Day Celebration/Arboretum Formal Launch: When the Kerns family is present for a ceremony, this ceremony will be counted as the city's tree planting ceremony for 2018 for Tree City USA requirements.

New Business:

Purchase of Nursery Jaws ®: Doug Crabill reported that A. Brown and Sons has a set of used nursery jaws for purchase. After reviewing this potential purchase, the board unanimously requested that the city move forward with this purchase to facilitate safer and more efficient handling of trees.

Misc. Business: Doug Crabill reported that he was working to finalize the bareroot tree planting order for spring 2019 delivery.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Ward Lutz; Earl Cottrill, second; all in favor.