

## **City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – September 2013 (112)**

### **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Present: Doug Crabill, Elmo Layman, Colin Stein

Absent: Ron McFarland, Earl Cottrill, Al Evans, and Tingting Cai

A quorum was not present. As a result, the commission did not conduct any formal business. The commission only discussed topics on the agenda.

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes (7/11/2013 & 8/15/2013):**

Minutes were available to approve for both of these meetings, but a quorum was not present to approve these minutes.

### **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 (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. As a side note, Elmo Layman mentioned that many large trees have been lost in recent years on private property in the city, including the top 3 champions.

Tree Removal Plans: 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 a few removal projects have been completed, including the following removals: dead ash trees in an alleyway/right of way between Scioto and Court and the large Sycamore tree on Lincoln Place. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that four dead trees at Oakdale Cemetery were presently being removed by a contractor. Lastly, 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 should be removed soon by a contractor.

Tree Maintenance Update: Elmo Layman reported that watering and trimming efforts have been underway. Mr. Layman reported that the gravity feed on the water tank is working well. Furthermore, he reported that he has been able to trim some trees at the same time that the trees are being watered.

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 he will be getting the information out to the public very soon.

**New Business**

Invasive Plant Removal Project-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill reported that he has been working with Terry Lavy and Tyler Bumbalough to finalize a proposal for the invasive removal work at Melvin Miller Park.

Misc: Doug Crabill reported that five tree commission members should be attending the Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference in Columbus on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned. No formal motion due to a lack of a quorum.