

## **City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – April 17, 2014 at 7PM (116)**

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

Present: Colin Stein, Earl Cottrill, Jim Lemon, Ron McFarland, Doug Crabill, and Tingting Cai

Absent: Al Evans

Guest: Elmo Layman

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes (3/20/2014):**

Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 3/20/2014 as presented. Ron McFarland seconded the motion. All members in attendance 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 2014.

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. Additional removal work throughout the city is currently assigned to a contractor, and this removal work should be completed sometime in late April 2014/ early May 2014. In addition, the Urbana Street Department has several tree removals to complete once the city's bucket truck is repaired.

Invasive Plant Removal Project (Recap)-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill reported that Terry Lavy of the Conservationist completed the first of two phases of honeysuckle removal last fall through foliar spray at Melvin Miller Park. The second phase will be completed in the fall of 2014. In addition, there is also a section of honeysuckle between the bike path and the houses on Old Farm Road that will need to be removed. Doug Crabill reported that the city would like to communicate with these residents prior to the removal, but he further reported that this honeysuckle will ultimately need to be removed. Elmo Layman reported that the treatment appears to be working, and the areas that received the foliar spray are now dead.

Arbor Day 2014 Planning: Elmo Layman contacted each of the elementary schools in the city to schedule a tree planting/Arbor Day celebration. He provided a schedule for each tree planting/celebration at the schools, and he stated the schedule would be dependent on weather. In addition, Tingting Cai reported that an Arbor Day tree planting/celebration would be held at Urbana University on April 25, 2014 at 1PM. Doug Crabill offered to coordinate communication to elected officials and the media for these events.

**New Business:**

Tree City USA Awards in New Albany (April 17, 2014)-Recap: Doug Crabill and Jim Lemon reported that both of them had attended the Tree City USA awards program in New Albany earlier that day. The program was enjoyable and informative. There was an air spade demonstration that showed how girdling roots can be removed to allow a tree to recover.

Spring/Summer Project/Maintenance Planning: The committee briefly discussed maintenance tasks, including watering, inventory, pruning, etc.

Misc. Business: Doug Crabill reported that an Arbor Day Proclamation will be read at Urbana City Council on April 22, 2014. In addition, a brief presentation will be held for the city's 2013 Tree City USA award.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn at 7:45PM, Ron McFarland; Earl Cottrill, second; all in favor.