

## **City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – June 12, 2014 at 7PM (117)**

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

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

Absent: Al Evans

### **Reading and Approval of Minutes (4/17/2014):**

Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 4/17/2014 as presented. Colin Stein 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. In May, several dead or declining tree removals were completed in the public right of way throughout the city. The Urbana Street Department recently got its bucket truck back from the repair shop, and the Street Department will begin to complete tree removals that the city staff can safely handle. In addition, a large amount of tree removal work is planned for contractors at Oakdale Cemetery in the near future.

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. Doug Crabill reported that the treatment was effective.

Spring/Summer Project/Maintenance Planning: Jim Lemon reported that the street tree and cemetery inventories have been recently updated to create 2014 versions of these inventories. In addition, pruning, trimming, staking, and watering work is underway.

**New Business:**

Tree Planting Model-Bare Root-Recap Washington CH Trip: Doug Crabill and Jim Lemon reported that they had visited Washington CH, Ohio on June 12, 2014 with Elmo Layman to meet with several of Washington CH tree commission members to review bare root tree planting efforts there. The merits of this method of tree planting were discussed. Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the commission moving forward with a small bare root tree effort for the spring of 2015. Ron McFarland seconded this motion. All voted in favor of this motion.

Arbor Day 2014 (Recap): Doug Crabill briefly recapped the various Arbor Day observances that were held throughout the city.

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