

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 16, 2014 at 7PM (121)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Jim Lemon, Ron McFarland, Tingting Cai, and Doug Crabill

Absent: Al Evans, Colin Stein, and Earl Cottrill

Guest: Elmo Layman

Reading and Approval of Minutes (9/11/2014):

The minutes from the 9/11/2014 meeting were presented for review and approval. Ron McFarland made a motion to accept the minutes from this meeting as presented. Jim Lemon seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving the minutes from this meeting 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 the near future.

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. Doug Crabill stated that the removal of maple trees at 438 Scioto Street and 1108 Miami Street had recently been completed by a contractor. In addition, a maple at 560 E Church Street was contracted out and removed. Doug Crabill reported that the street tree removals related to the Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project on East Church, East Court, and East Ward Streets were recently completed. Lastly, Doug Crabill stated that the Street Dept. had recently completed additional street tree removals in the 400 Block of Lafayette Avenue.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2015): Doug Crabill has been working with Adam McClanahan of Carlton Plants to finalize the order for Spring 2015. The commission decided that the selections would include Swamp White Oak, Dawn Redwood, and London Planetree with 10 of each species being purchased.

Invasive Plant Removal Project Update-Melvin Miller Park (Fall 2014): Doug Crabill reported that the city had contracted with Terry Lavy of the Conservationist for the second phase of honeysuckle removal at Melvin Miller Park. As an update, Doug Crabill stated that the work was scheduled for the following week. He said that removing the honeysuckle from the back of properties along Old Farm Road may prove a challenge.

Fall Tree Planting Program: Doug Crabill stated that he would get notice out about the program ASAP. Brown and Sons Nursery was mentioned as a probable supplier.

New Business:

Recap of Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference: Elmo Layman and other attendees reported that Westerville has over 12,500 street trees inventoried and over 6,000 park trees inventoried. Furthermore, one of the sessions at the conference focused on how Callery Pear is outcompeting Honeysuckle. There was further discussion about emergency preparedness and ALB.

Misc. Business: A brief discussion took place about the establishment of a Memorial Tree Program. More discussion is planned at future meetings. There was also a brief discussion about the possibility of EAB impacting Fringetree.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn at 7:45PM, Jim Lemon; Tingting Cai, second; all in favor.