

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – March 12, 2015 at 7PM (123)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Colin Stein, Earl Cottrill, John Kussman, Jim Lemon, and Doug Crabill

Absent: Ron McFarland and Tingting Cai

Reading and Approval of Minutes (10/16/2014 & 11/13/2014):

The minutes from the 10/16/2014 and 11/13/2014 meetings will be available for review and approval at the next meeting.

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 2015.

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 a dead Elm in the 200 Block of West Reynolds Street was removed late in 2014. More removals are planned in 2015 once work is assigned to contractors or city crews.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2015): Doug Crabill stated that the bare root tree order for Spring 2015 has been finalized with Carlton Plants. Pickup of the trees at Natorp's in Mason is planned for March 16, 2015. The following species were purchased: London Planetree, Bur Oak, and Hybrid Elm. The Urbana Veterinary Clinic has offered space for storage and care of the trees until they are planted. Planting will be scheduled as soon as weather permits.

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 completed. He said that removing the honeysuckle from the back of properties along Old Farm Road was not feasible without further communication with residents.

Tree City USA Nomination: Doug Crabill reported that the 2014 Tree City USA nomination was submitted to the Arbor Day Foundation before the December 5th deadline.

Tree Commission Academy: Jim Lemon reported that he had signed up for the Freshman Class of the Tree Commission Academy in Reynoldsburg in May.

New Business:

Memorial Tree Program Development: Extensive discussion took place in regards to the parameters of a Memorial Tree Program. Jim Lemon will summarize and formalize the program parameters for presentation at the next meeting.

Tree City USA Awards, Bellefontaine: Doug Crabill stated that the Central Ohio Tree City USA Awards will be held in Bellefontaine on April 16th. Registration will be completed and sent in for those parties who are interested.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn at 8:00PM, Earl Cottrill; Colin Stein, second; all in favor.