

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – May 14, 2015 at 7PM (125)

Roll Call and Introductions:

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

Absent: Tingting Cai

Guest: Elmo Layman

Reading and Approval of Minutes (4/9/2015)

John Kussman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 4/9/2015 as presented. Earl Cottrill seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving the minutes 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 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. Based on funding availability, more removals are planned in 2015 once work is assigned to contractors or city crews. Doug Crabill further reported that a total of three trees have been contracted for removal in the 300 Block of Lincoln Place.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Update: Jim Lemon reported that all 30 bareroot trees had been staked, mulched, and tree guards installed. In addition, he reported that all trees are leafing out, and they appear to be healthy.

Memorial Tree Planting Program Development: Doug Crabill reported that the details of the city's memorial tree program had been finalized based on feedback provided at the last meeting, and he shared these details. Jim Lemon was instrumental in finalizing these details. The final step is to complete a form and distribute the form to the public with deadline of September 1, 2015.

Tree Inventory Updates: The commission discussed efforts to get started on the inventory update of the street trees and the inventory update for Oakdale Cemetery. For 2015, the inventory updates will include an updated DBH measurement. Doug Crabill noted that the volunteers should make an attempt to note gaps on East Court Street, East Church Street, and East Ward Street for future tree planting efforts.

New Business:

Honeysuckle Eradication-Melvin Miller Park: Jim Lemon reported that the honeysuckle eradication effort from last fall was successful. However, there will be some additional follow up spraying to complete in the fall of 2015.

Misc. Business:

The Tree City USA Awards were held in Bellefontaine on April 16, 2015. Doug Crabill, Earl Cottrill, Elmo Layman, Jim Lemon, and Mayor Bill Bean attended.

Jim Lemon attended Tree Commission Academy in Reynoldsburg on May 13th and 14th. Jim Lemon reported that his class was comprised of approximately 75% fellow tree commission members.

Elmo Layman mentioned the possibility of using weed barrier coated with pre-emergence around newly planted trees.

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