

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – July 9, 2015 at 7PM (126)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Tingting Cai, Doug Crabill, Jim Lemon, John Kussman, and Earl Cottrill

Absent: Ron McFarland, Colin Stein

Guests: Kerry Brugger, Elmo Layman

Reading and Approval of Minutes (5/14/2015)

Doug Crabill stated that the minutes from 5/14/2015 will be made available for approval at the next regularly scheduled 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: Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration, was in attendance to learn more about the tree inventory process and the prioritization of tree removals. He stated that the goal is to use the inventory data to prioritize removals based on tree condition while also determining whether a removal will require a contractor.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Update: Jim Lemon reported that all 30 bare root trees were doing well. He mentioned that several stakes have required replacement due to lawnmower strikes. He further stated that three stakes should be installed for future bare root tree planting efforts. Lastly, he reported that some trees are being impacted by Japanese Beetle.

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. John Kussman offered to complete the form for distribution.

Tree Inventory Updates: Jim Lemon reported that the inventory update for Oakdale Cemetery was completed in early June. In addition, he further reported that the data entry process is underway for the street tree inventory update effort. He stated that the DBH measurement was recorded for all trees at Oakdale Cemetery and for all street trees.

Honeysuckle Eradication-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill offered to contact Terry Lavy about re-spraying in the fall of 2015 for the honeysuckle eradication efforts at Melvin Miller Park. Efforts to rid this parkland of Tree of Heaven was further discussed.

New Business:

Bareroot Tree Planting (Spring 2016): Jim Lemon offered to begin the process to pinpoint tree planting locations on the major thoroughfares of the city with a focus on spacing and locations. Doug Crabill mentioned that an availability list will be available soon from Carlton Plants, and he check into the minimum order required for direct drop ship.

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