

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 8, 2015 at 7PM (129)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Earl Cottrill, John Kussman, Colin Stein, Tingting Cai, and Doug Crabill

Absent: Jim Lemon and Ron McFarland

Guests: Judy Page, Monument Square District; Rich Colvin; Monument Square District

Reading and Approval of Minutes (8/13/2015) & (9/10/2015)

Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 8/13/2015 and 9/10/2015 as presented. Colin Stein seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (4-0) in favor of approving both sets of minutes as presented. Tingting Cai had not arrived to the meeting when this vote was taken.

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: Colin Stein reported that seven trees and several stumps are planned for removal by a contractor within the next week.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Update: Jim Lemon reported that all 30 bare root trees were doing well with the exception of some re-staking.

Honeysuckle Eradication-Melvin Miller Park: Doug Crabill stated that Terry Lavy intends to respray any missed/resprout locations at no charge later this fall.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project Planning-2016: Jim Lemon reported that he had focused on the major thoroughfares and used the database information and Google Maps to determine the estimated quantities of trees required to fill gaps along Miami Street (51), Scioto Street (26), South Main Street (19), and North Main Street (24) with a tree approximately every 80 feet. Doug Crabill agreed to check with the salesman with Carlton Plants to determine availability. Furthermore, Doug Crabill stated he was working to get funds approved in the 2016 budget for additional bareroot tree planting.

Phase 1 Water Main Replacement Project-Tree Planting Planning: Doug Crabill reported that 45 trees were removed, and a total of 25 trees will be replanted. Jim Lemon is assisting with locations/species selection. Tree planting is scheduled for late October.

Memorial Tree Planting (Update): Doug Crabill reported that a total of eight orders were received by the deadline. He further reported that he is planning to get the trees ordered and planted within the next few weeks. The commission discussed substitutions for Red Oak and Scarlet Oak. Doug Crabill mentioned his concerns about planting these species as memorial trees with their susceptibility to iron chlorosis. After much discussion, Doug Crabill agreed to update the reservation form and contact the parties who had reserved these species in order to make appropriate substitutions. Possible substitutions included Amur Cork Tree, Tricolor Beech, and Shagbark Hickory.

New Business:

DP&L Tree City Grant Opportunity: Doug Crabill provided the background on a new grant program that has been introduced for Tree City USA communities by Dayton Power and Light. Grant applications are due by January 31, 2016. A total of two grants (\$50,000.00 per grant) will be awarded by Arbor Day 2016 to two (2) of the approximately twenty (20) Tree City USA communities in DP&L's service territory.

Judy Page and Rich Colvin were present as representatives of Monument Square District. They presented concerns about missing trees, stumps, tree grate issues, etc. in the downtown. In addition, they presented their concerns about bird droppings caused by starlings in a pear tree in the SE corner of Monument Square.

In response, Earl Cottrill made a motion to have the nuisance pear tree removed. Colin Stein seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

In addition, the Shade Tree Commission and the representatives of Monument Square District agreed to work cooperatively to pursue the DP&L grant opportunity to replace trees in the downtown area, including possible hardscape repairs.

Arbor Day Hazelnut Project: Doug Crabill stated Elmo Layman was looking for someone to adopt the Hazelnuts at Melvin Miller Park and the Chestnuts at the YMCA property in NE Champaign County. None of the members expressed an interest in maintaining and reporting data on these trees. Doug Crabill will follow up with Elmo Layman.

Misc. Business: None.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Colin Stein; Earl Cottrill, second; all in favor.