

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – July 13, 2017 at 7PM (140)

Roll Call and Introductions:

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

Absent: Tingting Cai

Reading and Approval of Minutes (6/8/2017)

Earl Cottrill made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 6/8/2017 as prepared. John Kussman seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (6-0) in favor of approving the minutes as prepared.

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.

Tree Removal Update: Doug Crabill stated that he was working to get removal work under contract for street trees and remaining stumps. In addition, he stated that there were funds budgeted in 2017 for tree removal work at Oakdale Cemetery. Colin Stein shared that the compost debris at the city's compost facility had recently been ground. He further shared that a straight line grinder instead of a tub grinder was used which made for a more efficient process. Lastly, Colin Stein reported that he was sorting through the removal list to determine what work could be completed by Street Department crews vs. contractors.

Oakdale Cemetery Inventory Update: Jim Lemon previously reported that any future updates to the Oakdale Cemetery tree inventory would be dependent upon volunteer resources and GPS capabilities. He also previously mentioned that many of the inventory tags are growing into the trees.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Jim Lemon reported that a tree at 848 Scioto Street had recently been struck. He further advised that trimming work on Scioto Street and East Water Street would be necessary over the next few months. Depending on rainfall, he mentioned that watering efforts may be required.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2017): Jim Lemon advised that he recently checked on all 40 bareroot trees that were planted in the spring of 2017, and he stated that most of these trees were doing well with the sufficient rainfall so far during the summer months. He reported some leaf drop on some of the Yellowwood. In addition, he reported that some of the stakes on Miami were vandalized and had to be reset. Lastly, he reported that an older bareroot tree at 566 Scioto Street had recently browned out.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2016 Planting): Doug Crabill previously reported that all of the markers for last fall's planting of thirteen (13) memorial trees had been recently installed. In addition, he previously noted that several markers from the previous year were adjusted due to settling/being covered over.

New Business:

Street Tree Inventory Update: Jim Lemon previously advised that the street tree inventory had been updated for 2017, and he further advised that the last measurement of tree diameter was completed in 2015. Doug Crabill reported that the inventory results were being used to prioritize removal priorities.

Planning for 2018: Jim Lemon asked for feedback to prioritize planting efforts and tree ordering for 2018. The board provided applicable feedback. Doug Crabill will be ordering next year's bareroot trees based on this feedback in the near future from Carlton Plants.

New Business:

Misc. Business: Doug Crabill reported that the tree order for the US 36 project was being finalized, and he advised that some substitutions were deemed necessary due to availability. These trees are anticipated to be planted in late fall. Lastly, Jim Lemon is scheduled to be a speaker at the Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference at the Ohio Statehouse on October 19th.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Jim Lemon; Earl Cottrill, second; all in favor.