

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – October 12, 2017 at 7PM (142)

Roll Call and Introductions:

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

Absent: Tingting Cai, Earl Cottrill, and Ward Lutz.

Reading and Approval of Minutes (9/14/2017)

Colin Stein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/14/2017 as prepared. Jim Lemon seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (4-0) 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 reported that he was working with tree removal contractors to get quotations for tree and stump removal work to be completed before year end. He stated that he was focusing on all remaining stumps in the tree lawn areas, and he was also working to complete some additional tree removals with the remaining 2017 funds.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Jim Lemon reported that no maintenance tasks had been recently undertaken. The group felt that watering would not be necessary to finish out the year as long as rainfall continued in sufficient amounts.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2017): Jim Lemon advised that this spring's bare root trees were performing well.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2016 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that one of last fall's memorial trees would require replacement this fall. He explained that he had spoken with the family, and the family noted that the tree had struggled throughout the growing season despite the adequate rainfall.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2017 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that he received orders for 12 memorial trees and 2 new trees for Fido's Field (dog park). He suggested that the reservation form for future years be revised to not include Tricolor Beech due to substantial interest in this particular tree over the last few years.

Bare Root Tree Order (Spring 2018): Doug Crabill reported that he was working to finalize the order, and the order should be placed within the next few business days.

New Business:

Ginkgo Trees-Downtown Urbana: Doug Crabill reported that the city had received several complaints about the female Ginkgo trees in the downtown area this fall due to their pungent odor. Colin Stein reported that there were approximately 8 of these trees that were actively fruiting, and he suggested that the board consider authorization to remove these particular trees. Colin Stein made a motion to remove the objectionable Ginkgo trees, and Jim Lemon seconded this motion. All voted in favor of this motion; motion carried 4-0.

Misc. Business: None.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Jim Lemon; Colin Stein, second; all in favor.