

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – November 9, 2017 at 7PM (143)

Roll Call and Introductions:

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

Absent: Tingting Cai and Earl Cottrill.

Reading and Approval of Minutes (10/12/2017)

John Kussman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/12/2017 as prepared. Jim Lemon seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted (5-0) 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. Also, he mentioned two recent removals were completed by a contractor at Oakdale Cemetery. In addition, he stated that the Ginkgos downtown with objectionable fruit had recently been removed by city forces. Lastly, he mentioned a planned removal at 707 East Lawn Avenue along Boyce Street.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Jim Lemon reported that no maintenance tasks had been recently undertaken.

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), and he reported that the order had been placed. 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, and John Kussman agreed to make the revision to the form.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2018): Doug Crabill recapped the bareroot tree order for the spring of 2018. A total of 50 trees were ordered with delivery anticipated in early April.

Ginkgo Trees-Downtown Urbana: Doug Crabill previously reported that the city had received several complaints about the female Ginkgo trees in the downtown area this fall due to their pungent odor. As Colin Stein had previously reported, there were approximately 8 of these trees

that were actively fruiting. Furthermore, as approved by the commission at the last meeting, these Ginkgos had been removed by city forces since the last meeting.

New Business:

Ornamental Pear Tree Trimming-Downtown Urbana: Doug Crabill reported that one of the downtown business owners had requested that some of the ornamental pear trees in Monument Square be trimmed to improve business visibility. Furthermore, Doug Crabill mentioned that this trimming would be scheduled for the winter months.

2017 Tree City USA Application: Doug Crabill reported that the application is due by December 1st, and he will prepared and submit the application.

Misc. Business: Jim Lemon reported on his recent speaking engagement at the Ohio Statehouse for the Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference. Doug Crabill mentioned that Marcia Bailey suggested a memorial tree program for downtown. Ward Lutz suggested a higher fee for such a program due to the higher visibility location. No decisions were made on this topic.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Ward Lutz; Jim Lemon, second; all in favor.