

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – April 12, 2018 at 7PM (144)

Roll Call and Introductions:

Present: Doug Crabill, Colin Stein, Earl Cottrill, and Ward Lutz

Absent: Tingting Cai, John Kussman, and Jim Lemon

Guest: Cynthia Williams (Americorps/Recovery Zone); Kerry Brugger, Director of Administration

Reading and Approval of Minutes (11/9/2017)

Colin Stein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/9/2017 as prepared. Earl Cottrill 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). In 2018, the commission plans to finalize and send changes to this ordinance to Urbana City Council for their review and approval.

Tree & Stump Removal Update: Doug Crabill reported that all remaining stumps citywide within public right of ways had been removed through contracted work completed in late 2017 and early 2018. In addition, he mentioned recent contracted tree and stump removals at 702 South Main Street (x2), 708 South Main Street, 619 South Main Street, and 642 South Kenton Street. Now, he mentioned that the priority would switch to analyzing the tree inventory data to determine what removals could be completed by city forces and what removals would still require contracting.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Jim Lemon reported that trimming had been completed during the winter months on several trees in the downtown area. In addition, many of the trees within the commercial area of Scioto Street were also pruned. He mentioned that the remaining pruning needs to be completed on Scioto Street in the commercial area and along East Water Street.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2017 Planting): Doug Crabill reported that markers were being ordered for the trees in preparation for installation prior to Memorial Day.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2018): Doug Crabill reported that the bareroot tree installation of 50 trees was underway with only 14 trees remaining to plant.

2017 Tree City USA Application: Doug Crabill reported that the application was submitted by the deadline of December 1, 2017. He further reported that the city met the \$2.00 per capita (per

resident) for 2017 by providing \$2.01 per capita for its tree program with volunteer hours, labor hours, contracted services, etc. being counted toward this requirement.

New Business:

Karen Kerns Dresser-Tree Program Donation: City Director of Administration, Kerry Brugger, was present at the meeting to share news with the commission about the donation that was made towards the tree program in late 2017 by the estate of Urbana native, Karen Kerns Dresser. Kerry Brugger requested cooperation between the Shade Tree Commission and the Oakdale Cemetery Board in collaborating in planning efforts for the use of these funds, including the potential establishment of subcommittee for this purpose.

Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum: Doug Crabill reported that there has been discussion in regards to using the donation of the estate of Karen Kerns Dresser as a catalyst for the formal establishment and recognition of Oakdale Cemetery as an accredited arboretum.

Misc. Business: The commission decided to hold a formal Arbor Day observance in the fall in collaboration with tree plantings that are scheduled to take place as part of the donation by the estate of Karen Kerns Dresser. Next year, once the new PreK-8 school is operational, the goal will be to begin to observe Arbor Day again with elementary students at this site.

Colin Stein suggested that the remaining poor street trees be placed into one single bid with the goal of completing this list in its entirety. Furthermore, he stated that the Street Dept. would be working through the poor tree list to remove the poor trees that are capable of being removed by city forces vs. contractors.

Cynthia Williams, a service member of Americorps representing Recovery Zone, attended the meeting and requested the commission's assistance and support in a fruit tree planting effort. The group discussed logistics and offered to continue dialogue on this topic as plans become clearer and more organized.

Doug Crabill and Jim Lemon quickly recapped a recent training that they attended in Columbus about Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). They mentioned that an infestation would be more devastating due to the variety of host trees that are favored by this invasive insect.

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