

City of Urbana Shade Tree Commission Minutes – September 13, 2018 at 7:00PM (148)

Roll Call and Introductions:

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

Absent: Tingting Cai, Ward Lutz, and Earl Cottrill

Guest: Kerry Brugger

Reading and Approval of Minutes (7/12/2018)

Colin Stein made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/12/2018 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). In 2018, the commission plans to finalize and send changes to this ordinance to Urbana City Council for their review and approval. The plan is for city staff to draft an amended ordinance and then seek input about the draft from other city staff and the commission. One of the proposed ordinance amendments is to update to reflect how tree planting permits have been historically handled by the city. Since the ordinance was written, no permits have been formally issued by the city for tree planting. The current goal is to begin the update process for this ordinance before the end of 2018 with adoption in early 2019.

Tree & Stump Removal Update: Colin Stein reported that the Street Dept. had recently completed the removal of several street trees on the poor list. These trees will now require stump removal. In addition, he reported a Littleleaf Linden at 238 North Main Street (Urbana United Methodist Church) was removed in preparation for a sidewalk repair/replacement project by the church. Also, a damaged tree at 737 Miami Street was removed, and Bodey Tree Service removed a tree and stump at 217 W Water Street. Doug Crabill reported that additional tree removal and stump removal work by contractors may be authorized prior to year end.

Maintenance and Trimming Projects: Jim Lemon, John Kussman, and Doug Crabill reported that they recently trimmed younger trees on Scioto Street, Park Avenue, South Main Street, and East Water Street. Additional trimming is planned before year end on East Water Street and for other young tree plantings in the city.

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2017 Planting): Doug Crabill previously reported that the Randall tree is exhibiting stress and some Japanese Beetle activity. John Kussman reported that the Simpson tree had exhibited leaf drop. In addition, Doug Crabill reported that the Burnett marker will require replacement.

Bare Root Tree Planting Project (Spring 2018): Jim Lemon reported that the majority of the bare root plantings that were planted in the spring are doing okay. He reported that approximately 91% of the bare root plantings that have been planted over the last few years are still 'alive and kickin'.

Karen Kerns Dresser-Tree Program Donation; Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum: Kerry Brugger suggested that October 11th be the date to hold a ceremony at Oakdale Cemetery to commemorate the Kerns family donation. He offered to get in touch with the Kerns family to confirm family schedules for that day.

Oakdale Cemetery-Arboretum: The application has been started and is currently in draft form. The completed application for ArbNet accreditation is anticipated in late 2018/early 2019.

Street Tree Inventory Update: Jim Lemon and John Kussman reported that the street tree inventory update is complete. Doug Crabill stated that this data will be used to determine future removal priorities.

New Business:

Memorial Tree Program (Fall 2018 Orders/Planting): Doug Crabill reported on the fall tree planting requests, including Memorial Tree orders.

Arbor Day Celebration/Arboretum Formal Launch: If the Kerns family tree planting ceremony is held on October 11th, this ceremony will be counted as the city's tree planting ceremony for 2018 for Tree City USA requirements.

Misc. Business: John Kussman presented his findings on tree handling equipment. The best option was determined to be Nursery Jaws ® for a skid steer. Other options include tree slings and a ball cart.

Meeting adjourned. Motion to adjourn, Jim Lemon; John Kussman, second; all in favor.