



**Bloomington Tree Commission  
Minutes of the meeting, 16 February 2022**

**PRESENT:** Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); Erin Hatch (COB Urban Forester); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); Jeff Palmer (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); David Parkhurst (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); Dedaimia Whitney (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University)

**ABSENT:** Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved minutes of 19 January 2022 meeting

The TC voted to change its meeting times for the first time in 30 years from the third Wednesday to the third Monday of the month. Next meeting will be Monday March 21, 2022, 10-11 a.m. Online or in person TBD

**REPORTS**

**Urban Forester's Report [Erin].** Erin is getting feedback from the public on the bicentennial tree-planting projects, and put out bids. Davey Resource Group will implement this project. She has been working on the storm response document, and she was just elected to the Indiana Arborist Association as secretary. Urban forester's report is appended.

**Trees at IU [Mia].** IU received approval for its Tree Campus USA status. They updated their tree care document as part of the process. IU is gearing up for having interns and faculty help inventory trees on all the campuses. Mia commented that tree inventories provide persuasive data to all sorts of decision-making bodies, and are very helpful for identifying hazard trees before they actually hurt someone or cause damage.

**Report from Environmental Commission [Dave].** The EC is starting on its annual Eco Heroes art contest. It will also continue its discussion about how it gets information about pending construction projects.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The TC considered the merger of boards and commissions as recommended by the consultants hired by the city. They agreed that the TC should remain independent, partly because it's required by the statute governing the urban forester's position, and partly because its size and narrow focus makes it an effective advising body.

**Thank you to Tom Coleman.** The commission wants to write Tom a nice letter of thanks for his 30+ years of service. Members will do a little research and compose a letter for next month.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dedaimia Whitney**

<b>Terms of Tree Commission Members</b>		
<b>Expiration date</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>	<b>Member's name</b>
2023-01-31	Board of Public Works	Laurel L. Cornell
2023-01-31	Environmental Commission	David Parkhurst
2023-01-31	Mayor	Mia Williams
2024-01-31	Board of Park Commissioners	Kerry Bridges
2024-01-31	Tree Commission	Dedaimia Whitney
2024-01-31	Mayor	Jeffrey Palmer
2025-01-31	Common Council	Vacant
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**Urban Forester Report**  
**February 2022**

*Recent Activities/Events:*

- Dormant season pruning: 163 trees pruned in 2022 so far
- Indiana Arborist Association Conference – attended by Erin Hatch, Haskell Smith, and Bob Grubb

*Upcoming Activities/Events:*

- February Parks Board Contracts:
  - Davey Resource Group – Bicentennial Bond Tree Planting Contract
    - Tree planting, 6-month visit, 18-month visit included in cost for all trees
- Urban Forestry Storm Response Plan Request for Proposal – deadline for proposals is March 2, 2022
- Seasonal hiring for 3 seasonal positions, expecting at least 1 returning staff

*Ongoing Activities:*

- Marking and removal of hazard trees
- Winter/Dormant training pruning for trees planted in 2018 and 2019