



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

PRESENT: **David Parkhurst** (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); **Mary Welz** (Sycamore Land Trust Education Director, MC-IRIS Board Member), **Kerry Bridges** (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); **Tim Street** (COB Parks Operations and Development Division Director); **Stephanie Freeman-Day** (PhD Student, SPEA); **Jeff Palmer** (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); **Dedaimia Whitney** (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); **Erin Hatch** (COB Urban Forester)

ABSENT: **Laurel Cornell** (Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art)

INTRODUCTIONS

Two new Tree Commission Members: Mary Welz, Current Educator Director for Sycamore Land Trust, interested in removing Callery Pear from our canopy. Stephanie Freeman-Day, current PhD student at the O'Neill school, with a focus on urban ecology and urban forestry.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2022, meeting (attached): David Parkhurst moved to approve the February 2022 minutes, Jeff Palmer seconded. Unanimous vote to approve the minutes.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 18, 10am, Switchyard Park

ONBOARDING OF NEW TREE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dedaimia provided an overview of the Tree Commission and its role. Specifically highlighted the constraints of the Tree Commission, in that it advises the Urban Forester on matters pertaining to City trees, not private trees. Provide recommendations for various City projects that are brought in front of the Tree Commission, such as Engineering Capital Improvement projects, as related to tree removals and planting.

Tree Commission members highlighted two policies that other communities address that the Tree Commission does not: 1) solar panel and tree planting conflicts, and 2) private property trees. Erin highlighted the two notice of violation processes: 1) Private Property Tree Abatement, and 2) Unpermitted work done on City trees.

REPORTS

Urban Forester's Report [Erin Hatch] See attached report. In regard to the Bicentennial Planting Initiative, Jeff Palmer commented on the large amount of Oaks that are being included as part of Bicentennial Planting, approaching 40+% of tree species selected for the project, may want to keep an eye on the number of trees in total. Kerry commented that the contractor should ensure that only male versions of the Kentucky Coffeetree are being planted, also nursery availability may change the listed species.

In regard to the Bryan Park Perimeter trail project, Jeff Palmer wondered if the trail was being widened in any part that did not have adjacent tree constraints. Erin Hatch did not believe there were any sections being widened. These plans are primarily to pave on top of the existing path or install boardwalk areas where there are tree root conflicts.

Tree at IU [Mia Williams] Mia is hiring for a third arborist on staff. Tree care is being considered for Repair and Rehabilitation (R&R) funding, indicating that trees are starting to be considered assets to be maintained. IU is having an Arbor Day, but date to be determined. Additionally, IU is conducting a system wide inventory of tree canopy across multiple campuses. This will be a living inventory so that staff arborists can record and update this inventory. Lastly, the large Bur Oak on Union on IU Bloomington will be getting some structural support after trunk decay was identified.

Environmental Commission [Dave Parkhurst] The EC discussed two active working groups, the Biodiversity group and the Eco-Heroes contest ad-hoc group. The Commission also has a potential a letter of support for a ban on polypropylene and turf netting.

OLD BUSINESS

Letters of thanks to Tom Coleman and to George Hegeman tabled until next meeting.

Adjourn

Urban Forester Report
March 2022

Recent Activities/Events:

- Dormant season pruning: 253 trees pruned in 2022 so far
- Tree Removals by Parks
 - Tulip Tree – Butler Park – storm damage leading to removal need
 - Rosehill Cemetery – various dead trees along edge of property

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- Arbor Day 2022 – Saturday April 30th
- March Parks Board Contracts:
 - Middle Way House – Tree Decoration for Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Urban Forestry Storm Response Plan Contract to be seen April Park Board, Urban Canopy Works was selected contractor
- Still need two more seasonal staff

Ongoing Activities:

- Bicentennial Tree Planting Initiative
 - Received approximately 20 requests for trees not to be planted next to homes in the right of way, down from 304 to 272 planting sites
 - Only areas 1 & 2 for Spring
 - Species: Celtis occidentalis (6%), Quercus alba (10%), Quercus lyrata (8%), Betula nigra (2%), Amelanchier laevis (17%), Cercis canadensis (16%), Cornus florida (5%), Gymnocladus dioicus (12%), Quercus bicolor (9%), Quercus shumardii (13%), Cladrastis lutea (1%)
- Marking and removal of hazard trees
- Winter/Dormant training pruning for trees planted in 2018 and 2019
- Butler Park Mulching and Pruning to prepare for Bryan Park Trail Project

