



## Bloomington Tree Commission Minutes of the meeting, 16 May 2022

**PRESENT:** **Kerry Bridges** (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); **Laurel Cornell** (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); **Stephanie Freeman-Day** (PhD Student, SPEA); **Erin Hatch** (COB Urban Forester); **Jeff Palmer** (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); **David Parkhurst** (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); **Mary Welz** (Sycamore Land Trust Education Director, MC-IRIS Board Member); **Dedaimia Whitney** (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); **Mia Williams** (landscape architect, Indiana University).

### CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes of meeting March 21, 2022. *Note:* The April 2022 meeting of the Tree Commission was cancelled.

Next meeting will be 10 a.m. Monday, 20 June at Switchyard Park

### REPORTS

**Urban Forester's Report** (Erin Hatch). Full report attached below. Erin and Joanna Sparks coordinated the city's Arbor Day activities, which included a tree planting sponsored by Duke Energy. About 25 young people attended and helped plant trees in Butler Park. Davey Tree is wrapping up their tree-planting bond: about 73 trees have been planted in Green Acres and other neighborhoods in the east-central section of the city. Any more planting before the weather gets too hot will be targeted at trees vandalized over the winter. The city is trying a trial partnership with Canopy Bloomington to mulch and tend to trees in Switchyard Park.

**Indiana University** (Mia Williams). IU celebrated Arbor Day on April 25, and about 25 students helped plant about 30 trees. IU crews planted another 20 trees by Reed Hall the next day. All seven campuses have students helping conduct a tree inventory, which will result in an all-campus inventory.

**Environmental Commission** (Dave Parkhurst). The EC has a new subcommittee to monitor air quality. Several members of the ECPC met with Scott Robinson about retaining its ability to see construction and renovation plans that ask for exceptions to the UDO.

### NEW BUSINESS

Laurel submitted a set of proposed bylaws for the Tree Commission (attached). The TC agreed that rotating the minute-taking would be good for the group. Dave suggested the meetings be recorded to help when memory fails. Laurel offered the proposal with an amendment to allow subcommittees. Mia seconded it. Motion passed. Erin will run it by the Legal Department to make sure it is consistent with other commissions and boards.

Kerry Bridges, who has served four terms on the TC, resigned effective immediately in honor of the spirit of the bylaw changes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Thank you letters.** Informally approved a memorial resolution for Tom Coleman. Erin said the mayor included Tom Coleman's service in his 2022 Arbor Day proclamation. Also approved a letter of thanks for George Hegeman.

**UDO and tree care manual amendments** (Mary Wells and Erin Hatch). Erin said a recent update to the UDO Tree Species list (attached) was presented to the Plan Commission in March, although the commission did not have a quorum so it is yet to be approved. She said that that the list of trees in the UDO supersedes the list in the Tree Care Manual because it's a statute. Mary is concerned that there is a discrepancy about invasive tree species across documents. Followed a discussion of specific trees and why they are or are not included on the list. The TC appeared to agree that the official tree lists should live (dynamically) in the manual and be referenced in the UDO, rather than being listed in relatively static form in the UDO itself. Laurel asked for draft language of the TC's position to be considered at the next meeting. Erin will also send out a draft of the tree care manual.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dedaimia Whitney**

## **Attachments**

Pages 150-151 of UDO change proposal  
Proposed bylaws for the Tree Commission  
Urban Forester's staff report

**Table 04-14: Permitted Street Tree Species**

Bold text indicates evergreen species

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Large Street Trees - 45 feet or more at mature height</b>	
<a href="#">Black Maple</a>	<i>Acer nigrum</i>
<a href="#">Red Maple</a>	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
<a href="#">Sugar Maple</a>	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Sugar Hackberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
<a href="#">American Beech</a>	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Thornless Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos inermis</i>
Kentucky Coffee Tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>
<a href="#">Sweetgum</a>	<i>Liquidambar styraciflura</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Blackgum or Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
<a href="#">London Planetree</a>	<i>Platanus x acerfolia</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Scarlet Oak	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>
Shingle Oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>
<a href="#">Overcup Oak</a>	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
<a href="#">Blackjack Oak</a>	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>
<a href="#">Chinkapin Oak</a>	<i>Quercus muhlenbergi</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>
<a href="#">Post Oak</a>	<i>Quercus stellata</i>
Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Basswood or American Linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>
<a href="#">Elm</a>	<i>Ulmus</i>
<b>Medium Street Trees - 25 feet to 45 feet at mature height</b>	
<a href="#">Autumn Flame Red Maple</a>	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
<a href="#">River Birch</a>	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>
American Hornbeam or Blue Beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>
Hop Hornbeam or Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
<a href="#">Regal Prince Oak</a>	<i>Quercus x warei</i>
<a href="#">Crimson Spire Oak</a>	<i>Quercus</i>

**Table 04-14: Permitted Street Tree Species**

Bold text indicates evergreen species

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Small Street Trees - Under 25 feet at mature height</b>	
<a href="#">Apollo Maple</a>	<a href="#">Acer saccharum "Barrett Cole"</a>
Shadblow Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>
Allegheny Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>
<a href="#">Apple Serviceberry hybrids</a>	<a href="#">Amelanchier x grandiflora</a>
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>
Washington Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>
Green Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus viridis</i>

**Table 04-15: Permitted Interior Tree Species**

Bold text indicates evergreen species

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Large Trees - 45 feet or more at mature height</b>	
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
Yellow Buckeye	<i>Aesculus octandra</i>
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Pignut Hickory	<i>Carya glabra</i>
Shellbark Hickory	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Mockernut Hickory	<i>Carya tomentosa</i>
Northern Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
<b>Eastern Red Cedar</b>	<b><i>Juniperus virginiana</i></b>
Cucumber Tree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>
<b>White Pine</b>	<b><i>Pinus strobus</i></b>
<b>Virginia Pine</b>	<b><i>Pinus virginiana</i></b>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i>
<b>Canadian or Eastern Hemlock</b>	<b><i>Tsuga Canadensis</i></b>
<b>Medium Trees - 25 feet to 45 feet at mature height</b>	
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
<b>American Arborvitae</b>	<b><i>Thuja occidentalis</i></b>
<b>Small Trees - Under 25 feet at mature height</b>	
Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>
Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>

Draft Bylaws, City of Bloomington Tree Commission

Adopted: month, day, year

*(content in italics is new language)*

#### 1. Duties of the Tree Commission

- Advise City Landscaper (Urban Forester) on practices of urban forestry,
- Assist the City Landscaper (Urban Forester) in formulating policies and procedures of urban forestry and formulating procedures for administering the provisions of this chapter,
- Promote public education on the proper selection, planting, and care of trees by assisting in composing a manual and by other means,
- Assist the City Landscaper (Urban Forester) in efforts to fund and promote the acquisition and distribution of additional trees on public property and right-of-ways,
- Provide information and advice to the Board of Public Works on cases before it regarding trees or in adopting additional policies and practices relating to trees.

Statutory Authority: [BMC 2.20.150](#)

#### 2. Membership

The Tree Commission shall consist of eight members. Seven shall be appointed, serving for three year terms. Two shall be appointed by the Mayor, two by the Common Council, one by the Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners, one by the Board of Public Works, and one by the Environmental Commission. The Urban Forester shall serve on the Commission as an advisory nonvoting member. Appointed members of the Tree Commission serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing body which has the ability to remove a member at any time for any reason deemed sufficient to that body. Members of the Tree Commission shall serve without compensation.

Statutory Authority: 2.20.150

In addition, the Tree Commission shall include a non-voting member appointed by the Commission. Their conditions of membership shall be the same as those of the other members.

#### 3. Attendance at meetings

*(to be added, from City rules for Boards and Commissions)*

#### 4. Additional membership criteria:

a. *The term of membership for the Tree Commission is three years. After two three-year terms, any member is expected to leave the Tree Commission for at least one year before submitting a new application for membership. Regular turnover of membership means that new ideas and new relationships can be brought to the Tree Commission, and that appointment to the Tree Commission does not become a burdensome lifelong responsibility.*

b. *The exception to the above rule is that it does not apply to the position occupied by a representative from Indiana University (one of the two positions appointed by the Mayor). Much of the tree canopy inside the City of Bloomington is managed by Indiana University, so it is important that there be continual communication between the two institutions.*

#### *5. Appointment of Officers*

a. *Officers shall serve a term of one year. Any officer may serve multiple terms.*

b. *At the final (usually December) meeting of the Tree Commission for any year current members shall choose among themselves and vote to appoint a Chair and a Recorder.*

#### *6. Duties of Officers*

##### *a. Chair*

*The duties of the Chair are:*

- To work with the Urban Forester to create an agenda for each meeting;*
- To conduct each meeting, making sure that all parties present have an opportunity to be heard;*
- To represent the Tree Commission at City activities related to trees, such as Arbor Day tree plantings;*
- To write letters of support for tree-related grants created by the Urban Forester;*
- To carry out any other duties related to public trees as requested by the Urban Forester.*

##### *b. Recorder*

*The duty of the Recorder is to create an accurate written record (Minutes) of any meeting of the Tree Commission; to promptly submit that report to the Commission for approval; and to convey that report to the Urban Forester for posting on the City of Bloomington website.*

##### *c. Alternate provision for a Recorder*

*If, at the December meeting, no person is chosen to be Recorder, then each member of the Tree Commission shall serve in turn as Recorder for one month, in order by alphabetical order of last name.*

## **Urban Forester Report**

**May 2022**

### Recent Activities/Events:

- Tree Planting:
  - Butler Park Arbor Day Planting – 19 15gal, 50 1 to 5 gal, 100 bareroot trees
- Tree Pruning:
  - Rosehill Cemetery for upcoming paving project
  - City Hall for light pole replacement project
- Davey Bicentennial Tree Planting Spring planting season completed
- Received Tree City USA status update, approval delay due to staffing in IDNR CUF staffing
- Arbor Day 2022
  - Deputy Mayor Don Griffin in attendance
  - Arbor Day 2022 Proclamation presented, including a thank you to Tom Coleman

### Upcoming Activities/Events:

- May Park Board
  - Middle Way House Tree Sweater Partnership Contract
  - EAB Contract
- Tree planting (weather dependent)

### Ongoing Activities:

- Marking and Removal of hazard trees