



**Bloomington Tree Commission  
Minutes of the meeting, 18 July 2022**

**PRESENT:** Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); Stephanie Freeman-Day (PhD Student, SPEA); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); Mary Welz (Sycamore Land Trust Education Director, MC-IRIS Board Member); Dedaimia Whitney (Bloomington Environmental Commission, Indiana Tree Steward); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

**ABSENT:** Jeff Palmer (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB)

**GUESTS:** Julie Ramey, (Community Relations Manager, Parks and Recreation); Tim Street (Operations Director, Parks Dept)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of Minutes of 27 June, 2022, meeting  
Next meeting will be Monday, 15 August, 10 a.m., Switchyard Park

**REPORTS**

**Trees at IU** (Mia Williams). IU planted about half a dozen trees in the spring, but they won't be doing any additional planting until fall, because of high temperatures and lack of rainfall. Mia said they are also having staffing problems, particularly with retention.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Letter of thanks for Kerry Bridges, approved  
Letter of thanks for Dave Parkhurst, approved

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Urban Forester position** (Tim Street). Posting closes on 27 July. Review of candidates will start in early August, in-person interviews possibly on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Salary will be in the low \$50s.

**City Legal review of proposed bylaws** for the Tree Commission (Tim Street).

1. Instead of listing commissioner duties in the bylaws, they are listed instead in Municipal Code 2.20.15. Several commissioners expressed dissatisfaction with this, as it requires interested person to take several additional steps to get the information.
2. City Legal said the TC does not have the authority to establish term limits. It was suggested that if an individual member's participation becomes problematic, the [possibly] global attendance requirements for city boards and commissions could be used to gently suggest that non-participating members resign.
3. Leadership titles should be president (instead of chair) and vice-president (instead of recorder). Dedaimia was appointed vice-president until the end of the year when new officers are chosen.

**Revisions to Tree Care Manual** (all)

1. The Tree Commission already regularly updates the tree species recommendations in the Tree Care Manual. Many members of the Tree Commission have current scientific information on which tree species should be recommended, allowed, and prohibited.

Pests and diseases also erupt quickly, making their target species risky for inclusion in the approved lists. Because of this need for timely revision, the TC wants the tree species list to be housed in the Tree Care Manual with a pointer to it in the UDO. Such a change will require City Council approval; Tim said he would try to make this happen.

2. The TC agreed to a yearly update of the Tree Care Manual. After the current revision is completed, there will be a discussion of the optimal time for revision each year.
3. Mary noted a discrepancy between the language regarding tree species in the UDO vs. the Tree Care Manual. She said it caused much confusion; TC agreed it should be reconciled.
4. There is some confusion about where edits sent in by Mary and Mia went after Erin left. Mary has preserved her comments and will forward them to the TC. Laurel suggested we focus on the tree species list first, followed by other textual edits. Our goal will be to have the recommendations about the UDO to the Council by the end of the year. Tim will send the commission the current list, which incorporates Erin's changes.
5. To general agreement, Mary suggested the TC invite public comment about the tree species list once the commission has its work finished.
6. The TC's next meeting will be devoted to reconciling the separate tree species list.

#### **Additional announcements**

George said MCPL is considering creating a trail through Batchelor Forest named in honor of Tom Coleman, long-serving member of the TC and one of the creators of the school forest.

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney