

**Bloomington Tree Commission**  
**Minutes of the meeting, October 17, 2022**

**PRESENT:** **Laurel Cornell** (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); **Stephanie Freeman-Day** (PhD Student, SPEA); **Jeff Palmer** (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); **George Hegeman** (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); **Mary Welz** (Sycamore Land Trust Education Director, MC-IRIS Board Member); **Mia Williams** (Landscape Architect, Indiana University); **Haskell Smith** (COB P&R Urban Forester); **Dedaimia Whitney** (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener)

**ABSENT:** **Tim Street** (COB P&R Operations and Development Division Director), Julie Ramey (COB P&R Community Relations Manager)

**MEETING SECRETARY:** (for the purpose of drafting minutes) **Stephanie Freeman-Day** (PhD Student, SPEA)

### **Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes of 19 September 2022 meeting- minutes approved by Commission

Next meeting will be Monday, November 21, **9:30** am, Rose Hill Cemetery office. Commission agreed to begin the meeting 30 minutes earlier beginning with the November 2022 meeting.

### **Discussions and Presentations**

No public comment.

No engineering presentations

### **Reports**

#### **Urban Forester's Report and Tree Commission Education (Haskell Smith)**

Since the last meeting, 19 additional trees have been removed, with a total of 70 this year in parks. 78 trees have been pruned since the last meeting, with a total of 620 to date this year and a total of 800 pruned trees projected for 2022. There have been plantings in multiple parks, about 130 trees this month.

The urban forestry department has created 3x5 index card handouts to be distributed at the Farmers' Market that include basic educational information about urban forestry.

The Callery Pear removal on the b-line has been contracted to Bluestone and will be funded by a combination of the bicentennial bond and a department budget line. The trees will be replaced with native trees from the list in the UDO table. Project is expected to be completed in mid-November.

The bicentennial tree planting continues with Davey planting an additional 122 trees in the neighborhoods selected for planting. There were two resident complaints about tree conflicts with rooftop solar panels. These tree plantings will be moved or swapped for smaller tree species. The city is currently creating a policy addressing street trees and potential conflict with solar panels. With regards to utilities conflicts, UDO buffer updated will be reviewed to accommodate power lines the City had previously been unaware of.

Two more planting rounds planned for next year downtown area, with tree pits. There will be some removal and replacement of Callery Pear trees. Total tree planted will be between 62 and 80. For trees on the square, the group currently maintaining street trees there may be able to steward any new plantings there. Haskell is trying to arrange for legacy trees in the UDO for the downtown area,

with allowance for a variance in distance from intersection, potentially grandfathering planting sites. Otherwise, following existing rules would keep trees out of downtown areas because of spacing requirements of 25' (?) from intersections. The department will attempt to change tree pit sizes to 5 x 5 from 4x4 when possible, depending on ADA compliance and similar regulations. The goal is to have the downtown plantings out for proposal by December and approved by Parks board for January. Phase 4 of the bicentennial bond plantings will be neighborhood focused.

The department is also working with CanopyBloomington for a November planting.

Multiple educational outreach items are underway or planned. One is working with RBB eighth graders for planting project (outreach as this is in Ellettsville). Another idea is to offer two one-hour educational courses on tree planting, pruning, and pest identification. This is an opportunity for Tree Commission involvement. In general, the department is working on public education, including why trees (particularly Callery Pears, but other trees with structural defects, etc) are being removed.

Research groups have been reaching out to study tree permitting process, data on this should be public information.

There is an upcoming emergency storm report meeting for public stakeholders.

### **Tree Issues at IU (Mia Williams)**

Fall beauty on campus has been noticed and is an opportunity to justify expenditure and resources on tree care (meeting tree needs so that they can continue to provide the beauty we see this time of year). Areas will be codified as land banks for trees to increase canopy in addition to maintain existing trees. Canopy loss from 2011 storms and emerald ash borer can be seen when comparing present to past images.

There has been lots of student interest in volunteering for tree plantings, Tristan is trying to pull together group for larger scale planting. Some efforts are being delayed because of the ongoing drought.

A new component of the Woodland Campus Initiative involves tree planting in groves. This can be done as a memorial gift from donors and would be represented digitally.

Mia gave a Woodland tour to sustainability interns and was asked to repeat this due to interest from additional students. This is an opportunity for Tree Commission involvement, perhaps annually in October.

### **Report from Environmental Commission (Dedaimia Whitney)**

Bug Fest occurred during the last month, one EC member is an entomologist and participated in the event. The Commission is currently investigating city storm water and its management. Water may be this year's focus (Lake Monroe and storm water) for the Environmental Commission.

Dedaimia's conflict with the Tree Commission meeting time has been resolved by starting the meeting at 9:30 instead of 10:00 on Monday mornings, beginning with the November meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Proposal of a memorial tree in honor of Tom Coleman (George Hegeman)-

The Commission has agreed to proceed with this memorial. An idea, unprecedented, is to designate a tree in his memory, in Olcott Park – no plaque, but have a gathering with his family and friends to dedicate the tree. Haskell suggested we could use an existing tree and that the Commission could

look at trees in the park for selection. There are also possibilities in path between Olcott Park and Sherwood Oaks Park or Rogers Family Park. George will look for something appropriate close to where Tom lived.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Trees to add to the Permitted Interior Tree Species and to Street Tree Permitted List**

Haskell suggests redefining the medium tree category to a maximum of 50' instead of 45' to be able to include more tree species in this group.

Street trees suggested- *Oxydendrum arboretum* (sourwood), *Quercus phellos* (willow oak)

Interior trees suggested- *Carya illinoensis* (pecan), *Hamamelis virginiana* (witch hazel), *Liquidambar styraciflua* (sweetgum), *Prunus americana* (American plum) , *Prunus angustifolia* (Chickisaw plum) , *Prunus pennsylvanica* (pin cherry), *Gleditsia triacanthos* (honey locust -not just inermis), *Aesculus flava* (yellow buckeye), *Castanea dentata* (American chestnut), *Magnolia grandiflora* (southern magnolia), *Magnolia tripetala* (umbrella magnolia), *Catalpa bignonioides* (southern catalpa), *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (dawn redwood), *Sassafras albidum* (sassafras), *Prunus serotina* (black cherry), *Crataegus crus-galli* (cockspur hawthorn), *Prunus virginiana* (chokecherry), *Halesia carolina* (silverbell), *Aralia spinosa* (devil's walking stick), *Ptelia trifoliata* (hoptree), *Quercus prinoides* (dwarf chinquapin oak)

Mary's suggests to move some species from shrubs to small trees- some of above are of this category. (\*note\* Stephanie will address this when creating the Excel sheet of all species discussed)

Stephanie will update the existing Excel sheet to reflect this discussion and the tree lists submitted by commission members (as attachments from this meeting and in separate emails) as homework for this meeting.

## **TABLED FOR FUTURE MEETING**

How to revise the Tree Care Manual?

1. Should we make recommendations to City residents about what trees to plant? Or just omit tree recommendations from the Tree Care Manual?
2. Potential organization for a new section: Recommended Street Trees and Recommended Private Trees.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Urban Forester's Report: Haskell Smith

Bill Fountain species failure profiles

Trees Can Be Misleading

Proposal for a Memorial Tree for Tom Coleman (George Hegeman)

Recommendations: Permitted Interior Tree Species (Haskell Smith)

Recommendations: Permitted Interior Tree Species (Stephanie Freeman-Day)

Tree Care Manual suggested revision (Dedaimia)