



Bloomington Tree Commission

Meeting notes, March 20th, 2023

Introductions

- None needed

Consent agenda

1. Approval of Minutes for February 20th, 2023, meeting
 - Minutes approved by motion
2. Next meeting will be Monday, April 17th, 2023, 9:30 am at the Rose Hill Cemetery office

Discussions and Presentations

3. Engineering presentations, if any
 - No presentations
4. Public comment, if any
 - No public comment

Reports

5. Urban Forester's Report and Tree Commission Education (Haskell Smith) –
 - May be some changes to next month's meeting format due to Open Door policies
 - Downtown development removals started- 90 trees being replaced or new additions
 - Pruned in Stone Mill/RCA
 - Still gearing up for spring planting
 - Park Board- service agreement with Mother Nature Landscaping (disease treatment), ash tree removal, EAB treatment, IU survey (if too late will be postponed to next month), Tree City approved (39 years)- sign up, IDEM permit for green waste- Haskell applied, arbor day set for 4/28 (6 trees to plant, TC members can attend), UF booth at Saturday Farmers' Market every 4th

Saturday (TC members can help), Duke MOU for next round, replacements in 2024, 1st phase of Gallery Pear removals approved (14 trees in street and 16 in parks), 3/25 working with Community Orchard for pruning workshop, Haskell has put together educational materials (TC members can help)- Haskell can send to TC, ongoing volunteer tree planting project at RCA with IU affiliate- 80+ volunteers 4/29, Tree Manual updates. Garden Show prep, golf course project

6. Tree Issues at IU, if any (Mia Williams)

No issues, today at landscape architecture staff meeting, tree inventory data for all 7 campuses will be presented, Mia will ask about links/interface with city- inventory will be electronically available, working with Sarah Mincey to make data available for students to analyze, have already computed ecosystem services, canopy, species diversity, inventory will be launching point of Woodland Campus Initiative

7. Report from Environmental Commission (Dave Parkhurst)

Busy meeting last week with several new members, looked at proposals/updates to UDO and got responses from city, outreach working group- tabling at Garden Fair, working with Eco Heroes- for art related to tree ecosystem services, reorganization of working groups- EC Planning Committee (used to have connection with Linda Thompson to review plans) -trying to learn how to access these plans that do not meet UDO criteria, biodiversity group- working with Habitat Connectivity Plan

Old business

8. Tree commission vacancy update, if any

Still vacant, Haskell is checking with legal department on requirements for members to serve on Commission- looking into this before specifically seeking an arboreal-based candidate, maybe Kerry Bridges knows of someone, could be nice to have someone from commercial-based sector, Dave's wife has applied, PhD in forestry from Yale

9. Tree Commission outreach and events - can anyone on the TC help table?

- a. City of Bloomington Arbor Day event, April 28 9:30-12:00 at Switchyard Park
- b. Garden Fair hosted by the Monroe County Master Gardeners Association, Saturday, April 15, 2023, 9AM-4PM, Switchyard Park Pavilion

New business

10. Continue Tree Care Manual review of changes, pages 5-9- changes made in Google Doc, all Commission members have access for reference and edits, see below for additional edits and topics discussed

- Planting Procedures
 - Bare-Rooted Trees
 - (add section) Containerized Trees
 - Balled and Burlapped Trees
 - Planting sidebar, page 5
 - Mulching – add statement on not using peat moss (environmental issues)
 - Planting trees in landscapes URL change?
- Care of New Trees

- Pruning- for city-owned tree section, will copy and paste from UDO Title 12
- Tree Removal- add language around ordinance changes in Title 12 (i.e., no stump removal if there is conflict with utility lines)
- Tree Preservation- Haskell will update based on UDO Titles 12 and 20, define “very special trees”- or replace with “legacy”, “heritage”, or similar
- Tree topping sidebar, page 8
 - No Tree Topping Allowed- create a clearer image at top of sidebar- before and after
 - More info about topping and pruning techniques url
- Tree Protection Guidelines

Insert section, common problems with urban trees

Insert section on care of established trees (compaction, conflicts with mowers)

Material storage- remove statement on more than one week, just leave without time period

Adjourn

HANDOUTS

- Urban Foresters Report
- Tree Care Manual with comments – pages 5-9