



Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, North shelter, Bryan Park, 23 August 2017

PRESENT: Kerry Bridges (ISA certified arborist); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); Lee Huss (urban forester, City of Bloomington); Dedaimia Whitney (Certified Tree Steward; Bloomington Environmental Commission).

ABSENT: Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); Tom Coleman, (Professor Emeritus, Department of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004). David Dilcher (professor emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University)

GUEST: Leslie Brinson, Community Events Manager, Parks Department; Becky Higgins, Recreation Services Director, Parks Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Bicentennial tree program. Leslie and Becky from the Parks Department had several suggestions for things the TC might do for the bicentennial, in addition to the 200 trees it will plant:

- Bring in Billy B, a singer who entertains children with songs and activities about trees
- Sponsor a float at the 4th of July parade
- Feature trees in one of the two larger events the city is planning in downtown Bloomington, one in spring and one in fall
- Sponsor a “summer sampler” featuring performances by local kids, perhaps with Billy B

Kerry suggested the TC focus on education about the lifecycle of trees, their benefit to a community, and how to protect them from harm. He also suggested bringing in well-known speakers.

Becky asked the commission to identify its events as early as possible so she can include it in her advertising and get it on the calendar. Lee said we can commit to a children’s concert right now. He is looking for 200 Emerald City tulip trees as our bicentennial tree with tree ‘cookies’ to identify them as bicentennial trees. He’d like to put one in every city and county park in Bloomington, and perhaps one on the grounds of each school, engaging the Tree Rangers to help plant them.

Minutes of the July 19th meeting couldn’t be approved because we didn’t have a quorum.

2018 budget. Lee said it looks like the tree inventory and canopy analysis will be funded.

EAB. The city is working hard on tree removals right now, a number of which are infected with emerald ash borer. Lee has marked 325 trees for removal, plus 49 he just tagged for a project.

Tree planting for spring 2018 will be primarily, replacement street trees and trees for the bicentennial.

URBAN FORESTER’S REPORT

Lee is interested in a new tree-watering product (“tree diapers”) at a conference last week that might be really helpful in areas where it’s difficult to get the water truck in.

The forestry department sometimes loses out because seasonal workers have been getting more for the same work by different city departments. The city is trying to regularize the pay rates.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is 20 September 2017 at the North Shelter of Bryan Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Dedaimia Whitney