

## **Bloomington City Tree Commission Meeting, March 14, 2018, Rosehill Cemetery Office**

Attending were: Urban Forester Lee Huss, members Tom Coleman, David Dilcher, George Hegeman, Kerry Bridges and Mia Williams; guests were Neil Kopper (Engineer, City of Bloomington Planning & Transport) and Paula McDevitt (Director, Bloomington Parks & Recreation).

I. **Minutes** of the February 21, 2018, meeting were approved.

II. **Old Business** Lee reported on plans for the bicentennial community tree sale and presented the handsome trifold brochure describing various purchase and donation options prepared by Julie Ramey. Plans include donation of a young tulip tree in a bucket with mulch and planting instructions to each of the 21 MCCSC and RBB school sites. Purchased trees will be picked up at the City Operations Center. Sales are going well. Lee suggested that we might consider a similar program in the fall, but as a promotional partnership with local horticultural suppliers rather than a City sponsored sale.

An Emerald City Tulip tree will be planted at the April 29<sup>th</sup> Kirkwood Avenue Street Fair.

At a program on their new Curry Pike location (old GE plant site) Cook Industries will host a ceremony at 10AM on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to commit to plant 200 trees.

A just completed leafless stage hazard assessment of City trees revealed pockets of dead and dying trees, mostly ash, due to EAB, and to other problems. A dozen or more of these trees in various locations will need to be removed. Most ash treated to resist EAB seem healthy and treatment regimen options for the future were discussed.

Bids have been let for Switchyard Park work, but trees are not included. Instead a "tree broker" is being sought by Lee to provide trees and to care for them in the interval before they are planted in the park. The broker is paid by or is a nursery. Reports are that better health and tree quality result from this kind of planting stock acquisition program.

Tree grate options and other measures to enhance the health of downtown street trees were discussed.

Ten dawn redwoods have been ordered. Planting sites best for them were discussed.

III. **New Business** Mr. Kopper presented plans for the IU "Woodlawn Avenue Improvement Project" ranging roughly from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. Extensive work to begin shortly after IU Spring Graduation (1<sup>st</sup> week of May) will necessitate the removal of 13 street trees; these will be replaced by 60 trees (mostly elms and honey locust) spaced roughly 30 feet apart. The project looks good; tree replacement is similar to what has been done along the Woodlawn corridor.

IV. **Urban Forester's Report** Burnie Fisher's SPEA class will do a tree planting on April 17<sup>th</sup> as an IU Arbor Day program.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 40 trees will be planted Near Sherwood Oaks Christian Church or in tree spaces along Sare and Rogers Roads by the members of the Rotary Club.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> at Switchyard Park the President of Rotary International will officiate at the ceremonial planting of a tree in the Park in accord with the Rotary promise to plant one tree for each member this year.

Pruning of 500 street trees by Rick Patrick and other arborists will be done under contracts just approved by the City. The work will be done in the Stands and Adams Hill neighborhoods. Some trees around the Square will soon be air spaded and their root space soils amended to improve their health.

Ginko trees planted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street median near Landmark Avenue damaged recently by traffic will be replaced.

Tree work at the “dog park nursery” and cleaning up dead and other trees along the road from Lower Cascades Park to the City Golf Course is to begin soon.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the Bloomington Community Orchard (Near Willie Streeter Park on Highland near the “Y”) will establish a nut tree orchard using stock obtained from Stark Bros. nursery.

Based on the information provided by Erin Flint on aerial canopy survey at the last meeting, tree canopy management is being considered by council districts. A two district effort each year will give a three year cycle to cover the whole city.

Lee reminded the Commission that it is not too soon to consider the next budget and urban forestry needs. Ms. McDevitt said that a consultant will help in the budgeting process with personnel matters.

**V. Next Meeting** Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on April 18<sup>th</sup>.