

Minutes for the July 18th 2018 meeting of the Bloomington Tree Commission
Bryan Park, north shelter. 9:30 a.m.

I Review of June meeting

No minutes available from the June meeting due to the summer vacation schedule of several board members.

In attendance for the July meeting were: Kerry Bridges, Tom Coleman, George Hegeman, Lee Huss, David Parkhurst, and Mia Williams.

II Old Business

A Planning Department rules – changes in the function of the Planning Department were discussed as well as how timing is good for the Tree Commission to consider modifying its sphere of influence and/or functions. Specific discussion of tree protection during development and construction lead to Kerry redistributing his draft of a specification for this topic. Commission members will review and comment for further discussion at a future meeting. No completion date for this review was identified.

B EAB – Lee shared that Bartlett Tree Service will be treating 161 ash trees in inventory. The treatments will happen next week which is later than optimal but still within the window of effectiveness. This is especially true since this is a preventative maintenance treatment in most cases.

C Tree inventory and canopy analysis – Lee reported that he is working on an RFQ with the hope of having something ready for release by the end of August. Several questions Lee is weighing include, whether or not to request the collection of voids in the street tree canopy. It was encouraged that an inventory management plan be in place prior to inking any contract for data collection and a draft of the RFQ will be distributed to the Tree Commission members for review and comment.

III New Business

A Tree Ordinance updates – this topic relates to Old Business item A since many city offices and departments are undergoing evaluation of current operation practices. Continuing a discussion started at the last meeting, the topic of expanding the membership of the Tree Commission ensued. Some existing members saw additional membership as a way of guaranteeing more equal representation while others wanted to make sure that bigger was indeed better and not just bigger. In looking at the current organization, it was agreed that there should be further discussion and there could be benefit from at least reorganizing the origin of the existing commission members. Specifically, it was mentioned that IU should have an appointment role. Currently Mia Williams serves as a mayoral appointee. Lee will provide the commission members with a link to the digital copy of the Tree Ordinance for review. This topic will roll to an Old Business item for further discussion and action.

IV Urban Forester's Report – The past month has seen an increase in complaint activity as well as a focus on hazardous tree removal and pruning. Bluestone has been awarded a contract for removals and one additional challenge to completing the work for both city and contract workers is all the road construction that makes further road closures for tree work unpopular to the public and more difficult to get approved through Board of Public Works.

Outreach continues with Lee speaking to the Monroe County Master Gardeners next Tuesday July 24th.

New project involvement of the Urban Forester's Office includes traveling throughout the Midwest to tag +/- 600 trees for the Switchyard Park project.

Respectfully submitted by Mia P. Williams July 19, 2018