



**Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, 16 June 2019**

PRESENT: **Laurel Cornell** (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); **Kerry Bridges** (ISA certified arborist); **Tom Coleman**, (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004); **David Dilcher** (professor emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); **George Hegeman** (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); **Lee Huss** (urban forester, City of Bloomington); **Dedaimia Whitney** (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); **Mia Williams** (landscape architect, Indiana University).

GUESTS: **Adrian Reed**, Aztec Engineering; **Matt Smethers**, Planning and Transportation Dept, **Brock Ridgway**, Eagle Ridge Engineering (Avon); **Roy Aiken**, Planning and Transportation Dept.

→ Minutes of the May meeting need to be approved at the July meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Lee Huss reported that **the Davey Resource Group** tree inventory and canopy assessment update is moving along; they are working with Julie Ramey on the graphics storyboard for the website. Lee hopes the data will be complete by the end of July. He is tentatively looking at Tuesday, 17 September, for Davey's presentation to the Parks Board (in the afternoon) and as part of the state of the urban forestry meeting (in the evening). The evening meeting will be open to the public. Lee hopes to be able to introduce his successor at that time. He asked the TC to attend both sessions if possible.
2. **Adding members to the Tree Commission.** Lee's successor will coordinate changing the ordinance with city council. Lee is now thinking that the second new position might also be selected by the TC. There was general approval of that idea.
3. **UDO.** Dedaimia, a member of the UDO Advisory Committee, asked the TC if they wanted to send their **tree protection policy** to the UDO consultants. Kerry sent a fresh copy of the policy to the TC. Dedaimia will forward it to the appropriate parties.
4. George Hegeman updated the TC on the **student sustainability initiative** presented to the council for endorsement. He said there was little change from the original draft.
5. Lee is working with Dave Williams to get his **job description** ready to post. He remarked that if the job opening is sent to Jill Johnson of the US Forest Service, she will make sure it gets to every forester east of the Mississippi.

NEW BUSINESS

Brock Ridgway (Eagle Ridge Engineering) presented the plans for putting in INDOT-funded, multi-use paved paths along Henderson and Winslow. This is a three-part project bundled as one.

(1) Henderson Street from Winslow to Hillside. Brock reported that 16 trees have to be removed to facilitate this section of the project. He can only achieve a 3:1 planting replacement rate instead of our standard 5:1. One of the homeowners, Scott May, is donating right-of-way to the city, which will save some trees. Just south of Miller Drive, the path must

be constructed in the drip line of some larger red oaks; Kerry Bridges remarked that this disturbance will cause them to fail in three years. He suggested that he do root mitigation to help prevent that.

The bid for this project goes out November 2019 for construction in 2020; all documents have to be in by 5 August, but Brock said that deadlines might slide because of right-of-way problems. They will not remove trees in summer to protect bats.

(2) **Winslow Road, east to west, starting at Henderson.** In this part of the project, they were able to achieve the 5:1 mitigation rate. They will narrow the existing road to take advantage of the right-of-way they have and ensure a 5' buffer. Mia asked for a list of the species they want to use so the TC can provide feedback. Brock has since sent this list to the TC. The TC will send recommendations for species after its July meeting. Brock said he can make revisions to the species list for another month.

(3) **Rogers Road (extension of Winslow) to Winding Brook Court (the Stands).** The remediation ratio for this part of the project will be approximately 1:1. They estimate 57 removals, 59 replanted, There was some discussion about a section of mixed density woods containing what Kerry called "forest structure trees." Lee said the city has already taken out about a dozen hazard trees from this area and may have take out more. These trees will largely be removed and replaced on the other side of the path.

The project includes a pedestrian refuge near the bus stop; CBU has asked them to replace the water main in the new embankment, which affects the replacement rate, because CBU doesn't want trees within 10' of water main.

Adrian Reed (Aztec Engineering) and **Roy Aiken** (City Planning) presented preliminary plans for a 2021 extension to the north end of **B-line trail**. It is early in the design process so they still have a few problems to solve: they will have to coordinate with the railroad, and some of the plat maps involved don't show right-of-way that does in fact exist.

The existing B-line trail ends at Adams Street. They will build a multi-use path on the north and east side of Fountain Drive and follow Crescent Road to 17th Street, where they can connect to a multi-use path currently being built. There will be a few gaps in the trail because of private development. The B-line extension will have similar features (lighting, benches, landscape) as the existing B-line; the remaining section will be a side path. The buffer between the path and the street is good place for trees. They'll have a landscape plan before they go to INDOT. They brought the plans in early to get TC input.

There will be a public meeting on this project in July. The TC will take a field trip to inspect the area on Monday, 8 July.

URBAN FORESTER REPORT

Search for a new forester. Dave Williams & Lee would like to have the job posted in July and to have someone selected before Labor Day (late July/early August). They would like a member of the TC to sit in on the selection process.

Tree removals and spring planting. Lee says he still has a few trees to go in yet; weather is still good. Tree removal has been challenging because the company that made the bucket truck used by the Street Department has gone out of business and parts are not available; thus the Street Department has been using the forestry truck to do its work. There are 142

trees marked for removal, not including those damaged by recent storms, including quite a few ash and flowering pear.

Clear Creek Trail. Responding to some complaints on the city website, Lee walked the Clear Creek Trail. He marked 80 problem trees (ash and close to 60 flowering pear), which were planted during the Clear Creek project. He suggested the city may need a volunteer day with MC Iris to deal with some of these trees.

Emerald ash borer. Bartlett Tree did EAB injections a couple of weeks ago; Bluestone Tree is doing tree removals; Rick Patrick and All Things Green are almost done pruning. Lee will reevaluate budget numbers after July 1st to see whatever tree removal contracts he can still afford. He said that JR Ellington did a good job with an emergency tree removal north of the golf course near Cascades Park. He noted that the city will be taking out some medium-size ash trees that were part of Cliff Sadoff's study; he notified Cliff, who said to take them out.

Switchyard Park. There is a big problem with trees destined for the new park. Because of the requirements to mitigate the creosote-laden soil and the rain, there are 300 trees heeled in at Switchyard Park that can't be planted yet. Laney Brothers put shrink-wrap around them, and they all have water bags, but they're getting chlorotic at the moment.

Lee also reported that he will probably lose 8-10 at the nursery because of trouble getting the water turned on.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday 17 July. The field trip to the proposed B-line extension 9:30 a.m. Monday, 8 July. Lee will send a map to the TC.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dedaimia Whitney
20 June 2019**