



**Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, 15 January 2020**

PRESENT: Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); David Dilcher (Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); Erin Hatch (COB Urban Forester); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); David Parkhurst (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); Dedaimia Whitney (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener)

ABSENT: Tom Coleman, (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University)

GUESTS: Julie Ramey (City Community Relations Manager); Dave Williams (City Operations Director)

INTRODUCTIONS

Erin Hatch, the new forester, introduced herself, as did everyone else. Julie Ramey said that she had reserved the shelter at Switchyard Park for the commission's summer meetings. For Erin's benefit and that of new EC representative, Dave Parkhurst, TC members described the work of the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Dave Williams said that the Urban Forester's job is being modified to allow Mark Marotz to be more active in deploying personnel and machinery, giving the forester more time for long-range planning. He reminded everyone that this year's Master Gardener Garden Show is on April 4.

NEW BUSINESS

Williams, who has been standing in for the Urban Forester since Lee Huss retired, reported a problem in Gentry South in Renwick. The subdivision project went bankrupt, and the final phase was sold to Tim Deckard to complete the plan. Of the 89 street trees planted, 73 were maples. Deckard now wants to cash in his public improvement bond, but City Planning wants to fine him for not getting a tree permit, not coordinating with the Planning Department, and for violating the UDO, which at the time specified that only 25% of the trees in a planting could be the same species. The Urban Forestry office has requested that Planning fine the developer \$589 for each tree that needs to be replanted. Also as part of the PUD development project approval, the Parks Department received 7.42 acres of low-lying land currently occupied by the Renwick trail, which has incurred an ongoing maintenance expense. Lesson learned is that the next time there is a public improvement bond, it has to be accompanied by specific requirements.

URBAN FORESTER REPORT. Erin assumed her position on Monday of this week, making the date of this meeting her third day of work.

Environmental Commission report. Dave Parkhurst said the January meeting is their annual goal-setting meeting. He described the work of the EC's planning advisory committee, the ECPC.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, 19 February at the Rose Hill office.

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney
21 February 2020