



**Bloomington Tree Commission  
Minutes of the meeting, 19 February 2020**

**PRESENT:** **Kerry Bridges** (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); **Tom Coleman**, (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004); **Laurel Cornell** (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); **David Parkhurst** (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); **Dedaimia Whitney** (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener)

**ABSENT:** **David Dilcher** (Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); **Erin Hatch** (COB Urban Forester); **George Hegeman** (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); **Mia Williams** (landscape architect, Indiana University)

**GUESTS:** **Melissa Bagga** (IU Capital Projects); **Becky Holtzman**, Hopewell Group; **Julie Ramey** (City Community Relations Manager)

**TO DO LIST from the meeting**

- Laurel said she would see what documentation regarding the trees around the old hospital she has and forward it to Becky and the Environmental Commission.
- Julie will design a brochure using the IU students' "Tree Trail" information to distribute to visitors to the city. Potential due date would be Arbor Day 2020. She will keep it on hold until she talks to Erin about the budget and Kerry about accurate information.
- Julie will post the Tree Care Manual to Google drive by the end of the week.
- TC members will write comments by the date Julie determines.
- Laurel will look at the American Planning Association documents RE Forester job description.
- Laurel will ask George Hegeman to look at job postings that include descriptions.
- Dave will contact SPEA researcher about tree equity around mid-April about her findings.
- Laurel will ask Dave Williams again for more-than-public access to the tree inventory for the TC.
- Laurel will suggest Erin budget maintenance into the cost of each tree planted.
- Dedaimia will contact David about writing feature articles on trees for the H-T.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Minutes approved

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Hopewell Group** (Becky Holtzman). The Hopewell Group would like a copy of the [2007] inventory that includes the privately owned trees on the old hospital property. Their interest is in preserving the trees, which may be included in new development after the hospital is decommissioned. Laurel said she would see what documentation she has and forward it to Becky and (at Dave's request) the Environmental Commission.

**Tree Care Manual revisions.** Laurel suggested the TC consider incorporate Tree Trails into the new manual. Kerry thought that the manual might not be the most appropriate place for this information, as the manual is more of a technical document regarding planting and maintaining trees. The TC decided it should be part of a brochure given to the Visitors Information Center and local hotels. The calendar of due dates for the Tree Care manual is

**24 April** Final version finished

- 10 April Due at printer
- 1 March Julie has final draft
- TBA Feb TC reacts to draft on Google drive; Julie will determine due date.

**Urban Forester job description.** Dave Williams has already indicated he would like the urban forester position to be focused more on long-term planning. Kerry suggested we analyze the ISA Municipal Specialist Study Guide to look for key components to include in an urban forestry position. Laurel said she would look at the American Planning Association documents to see what elements we might combine. Laurel will ask George Hegeman to look at job descriptions as well.

**Tree issues at IU (Melissa Bagga).** Tristan Johnson has reported that IU is seeing what looks like frost damage in middle-aged evergreens along the bypass north of the stadium. He is wondering whether the newly installed LED uplights might have caused this. Kerry thinks those particular trees might have pre-existing fungal issues; but he also says if a species goes into winter after a particularly dry summer, they may suffer from desiccation, which can look like “wind burn” or “winter burn.” If the damage is only on one side of the tree, the cause is probably abiotic, but if the damage is all over the tree, it’s probably caused by an organism.

16 April will be IU’s Arbor Day event. The focus will be the removal of invasives.

**Report from Environmental Commission (Dave Parkhurst).** No report from the EC. Maggie Sullivan will be discussing the research on Lake Monroe at its next meeting. Dave had sent an article on tree inequity to the TC earlier in the month; he contacted Professor Sarah Mincey about having students perhaps study the social justice aspect of tree planting in Bloomington. She thought it might make a good student project, but said that she has someone working on it already. She has put Dave in touch with the researcher. Kerry remarked that Lee’s vision of updating the tree inventory was to do it by political district, which might yield some information about existing tree equity.

**Identifying priorities from tree inventory.**

- Tom suggested that the TC ask Dave Williams again for more-than-public access to the tree inventory.
- Kerry would like to focus more on maintenance and less on more plantings. Laurel suggests that we suggest Erin budget maintenance into the cost of each tree planted, which will raise the cost of the tree (resulting in fewer trees planted), but will increase the likelihood of survival.
- Laurel would like the Urban Forester to have a formal, written policy about removing ornamental pears. Kerry wants to consider the greenhouse effect of removing trees as a counter to wholesale removal of the pear trees. He’d like to limit removals, at least at first, to those that produce viable seed.

**URBAN FORESTER’S REPORT**

None this month

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, 18 March 2020, at the Rose Hill Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney