



Bloomington Tree Commission
18 November 2020, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Online via Zoom

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 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: **Mia Williams** (landscape architect, Indiana University)

GUEST: **Russell White** (project manager, City Planning Department)

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes of October 21, 2020 meeting
Next meeting will be December 16, 2020, 9:30am, online

CITY PROJECTS

1. [Russell White] The **Maxwell Street** sidewalk project will require the removal of approximately six trees. Lee Huss had formerly recommended that a large cedar be preserved.
2. [Russell White] **14th Street** sidewalk project between Madison and Woodruff. The city needs to widen the sidewalk and install a side rail along a deep ravine in this area. This will require the removal of several 24" DBH trees. There are no replacement trees in the plans because they need to raise the land to get the sidewalk in place. Erin agreed to visit the site and consider whether trees might be planted when the project is finished.
3. [Erin Hatch] **Lower Cascades** creek improvement & accessible trail project. The project will include stabilization of the streambank area and a new ADA-compliant boardwalk to the waterfall and recreation area. The streambank is eroding, endangering both visitors and the large sycamore trees along the edge. Remediation of that area and enlargement of the recreation area will necessitate the removal of some of the larger sycamores and a tulip tree. Replacements will be 115 trees, a ratio of 5:1, a mix of shade trees and understory trees. Not all of the replacements will be planted in the site; about half of the replacement trees will be planted in the Griffy dog park facing Ferguson Road. The project will be bid in January; construction is planned for February-September 2021.

TO DO: Erin will send copies of the presentations to Dedaimia for the minutes.

REPORTS

Urban forester report (Erin Hatch)

EcoLogic treated some Tree of Heaven trees bordering Switchyard Park, resulting in standing dead trees in the 6-10" DBH. About 41 trees have been dropped and left in place.

The department has finished interviews for Kevin Prince's old position. They are hoping to extend an offer next week.

This is the final week for seasonal workers.

Environmental Commission (Dave Parkhurst)

1. Andrea Webster will come to describe environmental resilience activity at IU.
2. The BEC will revisit the environmental justice statement created by its interns last year.
3. They will also discuss the "plexes" planned for neighborhoods wrt population density.

Batchelor Forest (Laurel)

What are the next steps for the Tree Commission? Dedaimia suggested the TC write a letter recommending the library and school corporation think about signage identifying the forest and a tree maintenance plan. Tom says that if we correspond with anyone, it should be both the school board and the county plan commission. Tom wants to know how many trees they plan to remove and what the county plan commission approves. Dave wonders if we could ask to see the plans, perhaps after Christmas. George moved that the TC table its response to the Bachelor Forest project until February/March of 2021. The motion to table was unanimously approved. Kerry warned that the library plans are not really a part of the TC mission, which is to advise the urban forester. **TO DO: Tom, George, Dave, and Dedaimia agreed to form a 'group of friends' committee to deal with the issue.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney

ATTACHMENTS

Project plans for projects

TREE NEWS

Scientists discover which forests store CO2 best. <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/sci-tech/scientists-discover-what-types-of-forests-store-co2-best/46161820>