



Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, 19 August 2020

PRESENT: 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); 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: Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); David Dilcher (Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

Urban Forester's Report (Erin Hatch)

Some trees that fell during the storm have been marked for removal. Erin has spent a lot of time at Switchyard Park. The trees that were ordered for the park have a one-year warranty once they have been approved and accepted. She and Joanna Sparks, city landscaper, walked the park and inspected the trees not yet planted. She also walked the park with Kerry Bridges, and they identified some trees that were not planted properly in decomposed granite (sometimes called DG) and need to either be replaced or replaced.

Some Tree of Heaven along the sides of Switchyard Park were treated and are now dead trees. Erin has called for quotes on removing them.

At the Park Board meeting last night, she and Dave Williams proposed that they change agreements with contractors to allow her to get work done without having to wait for contract approval. Instead of contracting for specific work, the city would contract for a specific sum of money. She is negotiating one of these "blanket contracts" with Bluestone initially.

Report on trees at IU (Mia Williams—sent via email)

IU has hired a new arborist, Greg Lammers, who will start on Monday August 31st.

IU is still working on a Homecoming-themed tree planting this fall. Since football has been postponed until spring, they're hoping it will help provide the camaraderie that is such a part of the traditional fall classic.

Report from the Environmental Commission (Dave Parkhurst)

Dave reviewed tomorrow night's agenda. Dedaimia urged Dave to try to keep an EC member on the Plan Commission.

Update on Batchelor Forest letter (Tom Coleman)

Tom said he's learned of several letters waiting to be published in support of our statement on the location of the new library branch. The TC will watch the ongoing public discussion as it occurs.

Consent agenda

Approved July minutes.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. 16 September 2020 online or in person at Switchyard Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Dedaimia Whitney