



**Bloomington Tree Commission  
Minutes of the meeting, 21 April 2021**

**PRESENT:** Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); 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); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

**ABSENT:** 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)

**GUESTS:** Patrick Dierkes, project engineer, Engineering Department, CBU; Tim Street, Operations & Development Director, Parks & Recreation Department, CBU; Steve Cotters, natural resources manager; Parks & Recreation Department, CBU; Cara Fagerholm, Bloomington citizen.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of March 17 2021 meeting approved

Next meeting will be Wednesday May 19, 2021, 9:30 a.m., online

**OLD BUSINESS**

**19<sup>th</sup> Street Park (Patrick Dierkes).** This project is the result of a council mandate regarding the Motel 6 site on North Walnut. Council required the developer build a sidewalk connection from the sidewalk nearest their site to Dunn Street to connect to IU campus. They were required to spend \$300,000. The project is privately funded and privately constructed. The city is proceeding as if this were a city project. The engineering department has final approval of the project, but is limited by the budget in what changes it can require. Dierkes said the path would be about 1800 lineal feet.

Several trees, including a Bradford pear and two mature red maple trees measuring approximately ~30" DBH, will have to be removed. Currently, plans call for 15 trees to be replanted, but they will be the first project expenses to be eliminated if the budget requires.

Dierkes asked the TC for recommendations about the minimum replacement rate. Kerry said the most recently discussed replacement rate is one (1) new tree for every 3" of DBH removed. This formula would indicate that 24 trees should be replanted, based on Patrick's estimate of the DBH being removed. The TC would like the developers to plant the fifteen (15) replacements indicated on the plans, and then donate the dollar equivalent of any remaining replacement trees to the Tree Fund. Patrick commented that if this policy becomes a standard practice, the TC might encounter legal problems depending on the funding source, say, the federal government. Erin said she would figure out the in-house cost for tree replacements. George suggested that the TC investigate the legal issues regarding contributions to the tree fund. Erin commented that an "in-lieu fee" is a common practice in other communities.

**Griffy Lake Fishing Pier and Loop Trail project (Steve Cotter).** This project will install 1200' of walkway across the Lake Griffy causeway connecting several existing trails. Additionally, there will be a pedestrian walkway along the shoreline, which will keep people from having to walk on the roadway. The project will require the removal of eighteen (18) 12-18" DBH trees (mostly sycamores) on west side of the causeway. Currently, plans do not call for replacement tree planting, but volunteer trees seem to like the causeway. The planting of 'whips' was debated.

The project will also disturb .25 acre of wetland area. IDEM requires the city to purchase \$20,000 of wetland mitigation credits to compensate for this damage; the city has asked whether it can use any of those credits for its own mitigation efforts.

## REPORTS

**Urban Forester's Report (Erin Hatch).** Attached.

**Indiana University (Mia Williams).** Mia has been traveling to other campuses to talk about their Arbor Day plans. She did some tree planting on the Richmond campus with faculty and students. The Gary campus did their planting yesterday; they are establishing a wetland wooded area.

**Environmental Commission (David Parkhurst).** The EC spent most of its meeting talking about gas-powered leaf blowers and noise/gas pollution. Erin commented that the city just purchased a battery-powered leaf blower.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Tree trails (David Parkhurst).** He wondered if the urban forestry tour should have an online tour presence, such as evidenced in <https://cob.experiencereality.com/#/mobile/tourcolls>

**Tree steward training (George Hegeman).** IDNR Carrie Tauscher has announced a new hybrid training for tree stewards. George said that anyone interested in participating can contact him.

**Community outreach (Erin).** Erin said her graphics department is working on images to educate people about volcano mulching of trees. Dedaimia requested a copy of the graphics to share with her neighborhood. George suggested sending them to HAND.

**Tree planting vs. tree maintenance (guest Cara Fagerholm).** Cara wondered whether we ought to plant more trees; several members of the TC talked about the importance of weighing the relative costs of the lifetime maintenance of the tree vs. the simple cost of purchasing a tree and putting it in the ground.

## TREE NEWS

Common spring plants that are not natives:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/28/opinion/immigrant-plants-ecosystem.html>

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney

Urban Forester Report  
April 2021

**Recent Activities/Events:**

**Tree Planting:**

- 3801 Claybridge Dr (2)
- 3890 Claybridge Dr. (2)
- 3841 Mill Stone Way
- Bryan Park (2)
- 2634 Roundhill Ln.
- 915 E University
- 916 E University
- Rosehill Cementary
- 301 N Washington
- 216 S College Ave
- Animal Shelter (3)
- 215 N Rogers St
- 339 S Grant (2)
- 721 E 1<sup>st</sup> St (2)
- 211 E Vermilya Ave
- 216 E Vermilya Ave

**Lower Cascade Stabilization/Erosion project tree removals completed**

- 6 Trees Sent to Streets for Removal
  - 221 E 9<sup>th</sup> St - 10” Linden
  - 1006 S Lincoln - 12” Honeylocust, 15” Redbud
  - 202 E 16<sup>th</sup> St - 27” Sugar Maple
  - 2311 S Montclair Ave - 23” Silver Maple
  - 3603 S Kingsbury Ave - 19” Crabapple (2)
- Structural/Training pruning of trees <15” DBH in Seminary and Bryan Park
- Pruning of trees from Grimes to Hillside on Dunn St

- Clearance pruning of various trees on B-line for bicyclists/runners

**Upcoming Activities/Events:**

- ! Earth Day Event (4/22) at Southeast Park - various speakers and organizations, installation of trees by UF crew and free tree saplings (Red Oak, Tulip, Hazelnut, and Gray Dogwood)
- ! Arbor Day (4/30) - no volunteer event but will be planting at Miller Showers Park

**Ongoing Activities:**

- Marking and Removal of hazard trees
- Planting Trees