



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

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); Erin Hatch (COB Urban Forester); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); Jeff Palmer (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); David Parkhurst (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); Dedaimia Whitney (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

GUEST: Sheryl Woodhouse, co-founder, CanopyBloomington; Tim Street, Operations Director, Streets Department; Hannah Gregory, CanopyBloomington.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes of June 16, 2021 meeting.

Next meeting will be the 9:30am-11am third Wednesday in either August or September, in person in Switchyard Park.

PRESENTATIONS (Sheryl Woodhouse and Hannah Gregory, CanopyBloomington).

Sheryl and Sarah Mincey founded CanopyBloomington to help maintain an equitable quality of life for people who live in Bloomington by increasing the city's canopy, especially in lower income neighborhoods. Hannah, co-director of CanopyBloomington, has among other things inventoried every tree on the IU campus. Their presentation noted that

- Bloomington's canopy is currently 38%; has the potential to grow by 23%
- The city's tree equity is an average of 85%, but has block groups as low as 51%; it needs 50,000 more trees to raise all block areas up to the average score.
- CanopyBloomington (CB) plans to focus on low canopy areas first, with a goal of reaching maximum possible canopy.
- CB will be able to focus on privately owned property, which the city cannot do.

Kerry pointed out that owning large trees is expensive and that not everyone has the money to afford that. He suggested the group work with homeowners on the tree selection process.

REPORTS

Urban Forester's Report (Erin)

Partnerships. The city has a partnership agreement with CanopyBloomington to be read by the Parks Board this month. She likes the fact that the organization can approach property owners about the potential of their spaces in the ways that the city cannot. The city's bicentennial tree planting group will partner with Burney Fischer and one of his students. Erin will work with the tree inventory to identify potential planting sites.

Hybrid TC Meetings. The resolution to allow hybrid (in-person/Zoom) meetings will take effect this month. The TC will be required to have 50% in-person attendance at its meetings; individual members are allowed to attend no more than half of their meetings virtually.

Tree retention/replacement ratios and in-lieu fees for development projects. Erin has proposed that the in-house projects replacement rate will be 1 tree for each 3" tree removed. Erin wants to know if the in-lieu fee should be waived for city projects. Mia cautioned that there is a moral hazard to removing all disincentives for not respecting

replacement guidelines. If a city project group elects not to replant trees that have been removed, Kerry suggested that any unused portion of the project budget for tree planting be moved into the forester's budget for later use. He suggested that, in terms of infrastructure, we need to regard damage to trees as important and as urgent as damage to sidewalks. He recommended the TC read *Applied Tree Biology* by Andrew Hirons.

OLD BUSINESS

Potential Batchelor Forest management committee. Tom and Dave attended the most recent meeting of the Friends of the Library. Marilyn Wood, the chair of the Friends, did not know what percentage of the Batchelor forest will be removed to build the new branch. Tom and Dave recommended an advisory board to help manage the forest. Wood will possibly appoint the board in September. George says he now has the impression that the Friends are 'sensitized' to the importance of protecting the forest.

NEW BUSINESS

Shall we take a summer recess in August? Erin will find out whether it is permitted for the TC to cancel one of its meetings. If yes, the next meeting will be in September. If no, the next meeting will be in August.

TREE NEWS

Since when have trees existed only for rich Americans?

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/06/30/opinion/environmental-inequity-trees-critical-infrastructure.html>

What technology could reduce heat deaths? Trees

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/02/climate/trees-cities-heat-waves.html>

Why tiny forests are popping up in big cities

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/why-tiny-forests-are-popping-up-in-big-cities>

Why a tree is the friend we need right now

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/why-a-tree-is-the-friend-we-need-right-now-11623513601>

Respectfully submitted,
Dedaimia Whitney

Urban Forester Report
July 2021

Recent Activities/Events:

- 7-Line clearance pruning - various trees along 7th St to accommodate increased proximity of traffic
- Gravel Delivery to Community Orchard to allow easier woodchip delivery
- 12 trees removed by Parks
 - White Oak Cemetery - removal of 7 trees
 - Golf Course - removal of 5 trees
- Butler Park - pruning in preparation for ribbon cutting for new playground, July 22nd
- Storm Clean-up (June 18th - 19th storm)
 - B-line - 9 failed trees
 - Rail-Trail - several failed trees plus limbs, also had areas washed out, resulting in the trail being shut down for clean-up
 - Crestmont - several large limbs, and one failed top
 - Lower Cascades - 3 failed trees
- 18 Trees Sent to Streets for Removal:
 - 3809 E Winston - 3" Kentucky Coffeetree
 - 501 S Fess Ave - 11" Linden
 - 719 E 2nd St - 11" Elm
 - 716 E 2nd St - 16" Ash
 - 820 W 6th St - 13" Ash
 - 718 W 6th St - 14" Linden
 - 421 3rd St - 9" Bradford Pear
 - City Hall - 4" Elm, 9" Red Maple
 - 3301 E Olcott Blvd - 16" Ash
 - 3308 E Olcott Blvd - 16" Ash
 - 430 N Washington - 14" Linden
 - 420 N Washington - 8" Norway Maple
 - 823 W 8th St - 16" Red Maple
 - 817 W 8th St - 15" Red Maple
 - 1208 W 8th St - 18" Black Locust
 - 1109 W 8th St - 13" Linden
 - 1701 E Camby Ln - 10" White Pine

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- July Parks Board Contracts:
 - CanopyBloomington - Educational and Volunteer Programming Partnership
 - IU (Dr. Burnell Fischer & Stephanie Freeman-Day, PhD student) - Mail-based survey Partnership
- Bicentennial Tree Planting Site Evaluations - sent request for bids for planting site evaluation (approx. 550 sites), to be used for future contractual planting

Ongoing Activities:

- Marking and Removal of hazard trees