



## **Bloomington Tree Commission Minutes of the meeting, 15 December 2021**

**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); **Jeff Palmer** (Professor Emeritus, Biology, IUB); **David Parkhurst** (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); **Mia Williams** (landscape architect, Indiana University).

**ABSENT:** **Kerry Bridges** (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); **Dedaimia Whitney** (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener);

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The minutes of the October and November meetings were approved.

Next meeting will be Wednesday January 19, 2022, 9:30am. Online or in person TBD

### **URBAN FORESTER REPORT (Erin)**

The Tree City USA application is on the Mayor's desk, awaiting his signature. Erin is also applying for a Growth Award and is hopeful of getting it, as was the case last year.

Erin briefly went over the tree plantings that are part of engineering projects. In response to a question from Jeff, she indicated that these consist of a healthy mixture of trees, both large and small, including, for example, oaks, redbuds, and yellowwoods.

Erin reported that our city trees suffered only minor damage from the recent storm. Likewise, she was pleased to report the recent signing of new contracts to continue the pruning of the city's large number of healthy, mature pin oaks.

Following upon our November meeting focused on the Callery Pear plague, Erin met with MC-IRIS representatives, who embraced her suggestion that MC-IRIS help fund tree plantings on private residences that would serve as replacements for the removal of certain City Callery Pears.

### **INDIANA UNIVERSITY REPORT (Mia)**

Mia reported that campus also suffered only minor damage from the recent storm. She attributed this to pro-active planning following on the major damage from the 2011 straight-line storm. This planning has resulted in the regular identification and removal of over-age, liability trees.

Mia described an impressively large, arboretum-like diversity and number of trees that have just been planted on the new, Northwest quad located N of Geology, E of Luddy Hall and W of MSB-II.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT (David)**

David went over the agenda for the next EC meeting. He expressed both regret that Dedaimia is leaving the EC and also appreciation that she is doing this in order to take on the important job of serving on the Board of Directors of the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

George expressed enthusiasm for the new tree plantings along the extended Jackson Creek

Trail and wondered who selects the trees to plant along trails in general. Erin replied that she engages in a productive back-and-forth with those in charge of such projects, and in this manner the Tree Commissions does have input on these decisions.

**Respectfully submitted, Jeff**

**Palmer**