



**Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, 19 January 2022**

PRESENT: Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); 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).

ABSENT: Tom Coleman, (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004).

GUEST: Neil Kopper, Senior Project Engineer, City Engineering; Tim Street, City Utilities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved minutes of December 15, 2021 meeting.

DISCUSSIONS and PRESENTATIONS

17th Street Project, Monroe to Grant [Neil Kopper, Senior Project Engineer, City Engineering]. There are a few larger trees that will be destroyed by the project. He anticipates 11 tree removals, and 21 replacement trees. Neil is interested in feedback on what tree species to plant. George suggested Neil work with Erin regarding species that are size-appropriate to the sites. After a short discussion, the TC approved a motion to approve this project with the caveat that Neil work with Erin as suggested.

REPORTS

Urban Forester's Report [Erin Hatch] Erin said the contract with Bluestone mentioned in her report (see attached) is a service contract that sets aside some money, primarily for removals. Having it pre-approved will streamline the process for getting things done. Regardless, the jobs would still all be put out for quotes.

Bicentennial tree planting. Erin thinks she will put out requests for proposals for ~300 street trees next week. Selection criteria will include site appropriateness, but also some information on socio-economic and racial distribution of neighborhoods. The project is divided into four project sites which include tree planting and maintenance in neighborhoods which include, among others, Green Acres, Hoosier Acres and St James Woods, Crestmont, Pidgeon Hill, Trailview, Broadview, Moss View, and Winslow Farms. Laurel noted that the TC has talked about underground utilities more often in the last few years than earlier; Mia commented that that is a topic she is thinking about at IU, also.

Storm response plan. Erin is working on finding a consultant to help create a storm response plan for Bloomington. The contract will likely be up for approval in March. Kerry sent Erin some information on storm response planning that was published by ISA. Mia said IU has a plan of sorts, but does not have a formal document; IU's plan probably needs to be made more rigorous. She says they are working on identifying, maintaining and/or culling the trees that might fail in a catastrophic storm event, which is cutting down on some of the cost of dealing with

storm damage. She is also helping IU mitigate the flooding of a building that has been repeatedly flooded. The mitigation may involve tree work.

Indiana University [Mia Williams]. IU has completed planting 149 trees in the quad project, a nice diverse mix, all in the ground, the remaining area sodded and strawed.

Environmental Commission [Dave Parkhurst]. Dave explained that Linda Thompson has been taken out of the planning review function of the EC, and he is not sure how the commission will be getting information about new developments to review. Erin said the city has an internal committee, the Development Review Committee, which sees plans that do not conform to the UDO. She is a member of it, as is Tim. She does not know whether Linda is on the committee or not.

The EC will also be asked whether it wants to endorse a state committee to review the environmental crisis.

NEW BUSINESS

Is this day and time optimal for all members of the Commission? Erin will send out a poll.
Next meeting will be Wednesday February 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Online or in person TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney

Urban Forester Report

January 2022

Recent Activities/Events:

- 3 trees removed by Parks
 - White Oak Cemetery – 3 Blue Spruce
- 8 Trees Sent to Streets for Removal:
 - 3412 S Ashwood Ln – 7” & 7” Crabapple
 - 817 Maria Ct – 18” Pear
 - 2901 S Dale Ct – 15” & 16” Pear
 - 3621 Bainbridge – 18” Linden
 - 619 N Morton
 - 108 Indiana Ave – 18” Linden

Upcoming Activities/Events:

- January Parks Board Contracts:
 - Bluestone – Service Contract for Removals
 - Davey Resource Group – Amendment to 2021 Small Tree Pruning to extend deadline
 - Green Earth – Service Contract for green waste disposal
- Bicentennial Bond for Tree Planting Request for Proposal – set to be posted mid- to end of January

Ongoing Activities:

- Marking and removal of hazard trees
- Winter/Dormant training pruning for trees planted in 2018 and 2019

