



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes
March 10, 2021 via Zoom**

In attendance:

Susan Allen
Rianne Hawkins
Jan Von Qualen
Randy Belville
Amy McEuen
Jeff Reim
Nate Bottom
Ernestine Lawrence
Erskine Route

Meeting was called to order at 2p on March 10, 2021

Approval of the minutes. Motion made by Ernestine Lawrence to approve the minutes. The second was made by Amy McEuen. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of the memorial tree program. Jan has reached out to Mike Brunk with IDNR. He cautioned that it may not be a good idea for a city because it would put too much pressure on the public works department. Mr. Brunk made a few additional suggestions by working with a charitable organization.

Susan also did some investigation with the Land of Lincoln community foundation. They would love to get involved. And they have several recommendations on how to move forward. There would be a fundraising threshold of at least \$10,000 that would create an endowed fund.

A discussion ensued about the possibilities of community fundraising for this project. Jan asked Susan and Ernestine to look more into this possibility.

Jan also stated that Mike Brunk also suggested a cooperative tree planting program. This would be a cost sharing program to help finance the planting of trees in neighborhoods. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of doing such a cooperative program. In talking about

the potential capacity issues, discussion shifted to raising money for the community foundation program.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on the Morton Arboretum grant. Jeff gave a brief report to the UFC on the process of the grant. The tree inventory will begin on the Northeast side of the City.

The next item on the agenda is the seedling planting project. Randy gave a brief update to the Commission on how the project is going so far. The goal is to fill in the Stanford corridor.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the City Budget. Public Works Director Nate Bottom and City Arborist Jeff Reim made a brief report on a small spring tree planting program. There will be a larger program in the fall. The goal is to plant 300 trees this year in the City. Questions about how the tree inventory will affect the planting of the trees.

Next, there was a brief update on the removal of the tree grates from downtown. Director Bottom announced that those would be removed this month.

Ernestine Lawrence and Susan Allen both gave an update on the Arbor Day activities with the Boys and Girls Club.

There was then a discussion about the regulations surrounding landscaping.

The next item on the agenda was a brief discussion around the upcoming Earth Day celebration. Earth Day will be on April 17th and they are partnering with the Springfield Park District at Henson Robinson Zoo. The UFC is encouraged to participate.

The final item on the agenda was public comment. Sue Rempfer asked questions about how the tree planting would work through the Community Foundation.

Jan also made some announcements on upcoming events. She also mentioned that there could also be a shift in the time that the commission is meeting due to conflicting schedules. The next meeting will be at 4p on May 12th.

With nothing more coming before the commission, a motion was made for adjournment by Amy McEuen. The motion was seconded by Ernestine Lawrence. The motion carried with a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 3:09pm.