



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission  
Minutes  
May 12, 2021 via Zoom**

In attendance:

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

Meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. on May 12, 2021

Dr. Vazquez was unable to attend but plans to attend the July meeting.

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 Community Foundation for Land of Lincoln. Ernestine Lawrence and Susan Allen met with John Stremsterfer and they provided a written report. Ernestine reported that Mr. Stremsterfer was enthusiastic about a tree planting fund, which he says fits in well with the environmental goals of The Next10. He gave them the two alternatives for a tree-planting fund, a traditional fund, called 'Field of Interest,' or a pass-through fund, which is used by groups with a one-time objective. The traditional fund would entail fundraising to an endowed level of \$10-20,000 which would accrue 4% interest that could be used for tree planting and incur management fees of 1.5% annually. There is no time-limit on building the fund, but fundraising could be slow, and the 1.5% fee would apply. It is a possibility that if an endowment fund was started, the use of funds could begin before it reached the \$10,000 threshold for an endowment. John indicated that he would allow the UFC to use a pass-through type of fund for tree planting. The advantage of this type of fund is that \$50 of every \$100 raised can go to our objective, tree-planting, immediately. The disadvantage is a larger 5.5% management fee and no market investment. Ernestine and Susan will invite Mr. Stremsterfer to a future meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on the Morton Arboretum grant. Jeff indicated that the paperwork was signed and ready to go. A quarterly report is due June 15. Susan Allen offered to help Jeff with the report. The tree ordinance must be approved. 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 was an update on removal of the grates around the downtown trees. The grates have not been removed but will be removed after branch pick up is concluded. the seedling planting project. Randy reported that the trees are healthy and he and his crew have planted more trees along Stanford.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the Citizens Club Urban Tree Program, Earth Day Celebration and Dr. McEuen's Plant a Native Tree, Support an Ecosystem presentation. All of the events were well attended. Jeff reported that attendees at the zoo were very enthusiastic about the tree give away. There were about 20 attendees at the Citizens Club and Dr. McEuen's presentations. The Arbor week celebration people attended 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.

There was then a discussion about the City regulations surrounding landscaping. There are no regulations for private homes. Nate stated that currently 4.5' parkway is required for new construction. Jeff indicated that only a small tree could be planted in that space.

There was a discussion about what to do with the Mayor's Earth Week proclamation. Nate indicated that it could be hung in the Public Works Office.

There were no public comments.

The next meeting will be at 4 p.m. on July 12th.

With nothing more coming before the commission, a motion was made for adjournment by Erskine Route. The motion was seconded by Ernestine Lawrence. The motion carried with a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Springfield Urban Forestry Commission  
Meeting of Susan Allen, Ernestine Lawrence and John Stremsterfer  
April 1, 2021, CFLL office

UFC members Susan Allen and Ernestine Lawrence met with John Stremsterfer, CEO, Community Foundation for Land of Lincoln (CFLL), to discuss the development of a fund for planting trees in Springfield. Susan Allen had two previous conversations with John, who looked into the issue a little and spoke with people at the Community Foundation of Central Illinois (CFCIL) in Champaign-Urbana. Mike Brunk, of DNR, suggested to the Springfield UFC the development of such a fund, as he had used a fund like this at CFCIL. John was enthusiastic about a tree planting fund, which he says fits in well with the environmental goals of The Next10 -- an initiative to spark conversations about Springfield's future. Ernestine asked whether the tree planting fund could be used in part of The Next10 public media campaign, and John agreed.

John said there are two alternatives for a tree-planting fund, one traditional and one unique. The traditional fund, called 'Field of Interest,' would entail fundraising to an endowed level of \$20,000 with 1.5% assessed by CFLL annually in management fees. The interest on the account would be used for tree planting; at 4% interest, and 1.5% in fees, maybe two trees could be planted a year. A disadvantage with this kind of account is that fundraising, particularly without a fundraising arm or experienced fundraisers, could be slow. There's no time limit on building an endowed fund, however, the annual management fee applies. And fundraising would need to be ongoing, which probably isn't likely without dedicated fundraisers. John said The Urbana tree fund wasn't sustainable (it wasn't endowed, and there was no distribution).

Another alternative, which isn't generally used for ongoing charitable operations, is a pass-through fund. Most typically, these funds are used by groups with a one-time objective, like construction of a building, however, John would allow UFC to use a fund like this for tree planting. The advantage of this type of fund is that \$50 of every \$100 raised can go to our objective, tree-planting, immediately. A disadvantage is the larger management fee of 5% a year with no market investment.

John asked whether a city-established/administered tree-planting fund would be a possibility. It would save on CFLL management fees. He credited that some people may prefer donating to a foundation such as CFLL, rather than writing a check to the city.

Services CFLL provide are tax receipts to donors and quarterly reports on fund growth. John is willing to attend a UFC meeting and respond to questions members have. On a positive note, John said he always tells people, you are only one donor away from meeting your goal. He said UFC could give fundraising a try and see if it is successful. He also suggested CWLP as a source of funds, perhaps in conjunction with its tree-trimming program.

Susan Allen and Ernestine Lawrence