



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes**

3:30 p.m. November 5, 2021

Room 203, Municipal Center West and via Zoom

The meeting was called to Order at 3:30 p.m.

In attendance were Susan Allen, Randy Belville, Ernestine Lawrence, Amy McEuen, Scott Marlow, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, and Nate Bottom. Absent was Scott Rogers.

Guests present were Polly Poskin and Ruth Oliver.

Amy McEuen made a motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Minutes as corrected. Ernestine Lawrence seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The draft of the UFC's Comments and Recommendations for the MacArthur Blvd project was discussed. Nate Bottom mentioned there being some opposing viewpoints. Randy noted that Mike Higgins from the City's Bicycle Advisory Council had been at the last meeting and was not opposed to the recommendation to move bicycle traffic to a parallel street. Nate said there are statutory provisions for complete streets, i.e., multi-usage, accommodations for pedestrians, and through streets. Polly Poskin asked if the considerations include green space. Nate indicated they do not. Scott Marlow asked if one of the goals was to improve Sangamon County Mass Transit accommodations. Nate agreed that was a goal. It was suggested that the recommendations be in bold print. There was a Motion by Randy Belville to adopt the Comments and Recommendations. The Motion was seconded by Ernestine Lawrence and passed unanimously.

Randy Belville said that he has ordered the bare-root trees for the spring tree give-away at the Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations. Randy has planted 70 trees along Stanford Avenue. He also planted some trees, donated by Jan, at the Laurel Street underpass. Randy also plans to plant trees on Stanford east of 11th Street.

Jeff reported that work removing the grates from the downtown trees will resume in December, after branch pick-up. .

Ernestine Lawrence reported that Michelle Robinson, the Principal at McClernon will get back to her after she has spoken with her teachers about the Arbor Day event. The Springfield Art Association will collaborate with first and second grade classes to create artwork to demonstrate the importance of trees. Two trees will be planted. Ribbons and gift cards will be presented to the students. The District 186 Superintendent has been invited. Media and members of the City Council will also be invited.

Old Business: Ruth Oliver said she would do a tree inventory downtown, six blocks from the Old State Capitol in every direction. about a tree inventory in the six-block center area of downtown in the Spring. This will be discussed further in January.

New Business: The offer of trees from Davidsan's Japanese Maples (Ginkgo 50 trees (41 @ 3 gal size, 6 @ 5-gal, 3 @ 1-gal); Conifers 155 trees, 1-gal up to 10-gal, assorted;

Beech 19 trees, 3-gal up to 15-gal; Nyssa (Tupelo) 10 trees @ 5-gal; JMs 1400 trees, assorted 1-gal up to 20- gal; Other hardy Acers 46 trees, assorted 2-gal up to 20-gal; and Misc. 70 trees) Randy offered to get the trees and store them for give-away in the spring.

The 2022 budget for trees was discussed. It was agreed that Jan should give an update on the accomplishments of the UFC to the Council in December. A budget of \$100,000 was suggested. Nate would like a paragraph on the accomplishments for his budget presentation. Public Works is creating a list of the dead ash trees that need to be removed.

There was a discussion on the difficulties of maintaining trees and green spaces. Randy suggested that the City should look at St. Johns' 'water sled, saying that it would greatly increase watering efficiency.

Public comments. Noted above.

The next meeting will be a hybrid with Zoom and physical attendance options, at 3:30 p.m. on January 12, 2022.

Amy McEuen made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ernestine Lawrence. The motion passed unanimously.