



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes**

3:30 p.m. March 9, 2022

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, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, and Dan Brill. Absent were Scott Marlow and Nate Bottom.

Guests present included Jonathon GoldbergBelle, Polly Poskin, Tracy and Bill Buscher, Cassie Metz, Michael Clark, Susan Helm, Brittany Carver, and Ruth Oliver.

Dan Brill will take the place of Scott Rogers to represent CWLP. Dan Brill is the manager of Land & Water Resources at CWLP. He indicated that there is a permit process for tree trimming at Lake Springfield.

Jonathon GoldbergBelle is the President of the Board of Directors of the Sister Cities Association of Springfield, Illinois, and the Director of the Study Away Programs at UIS. He announced that there will be a celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 30, 2022, to celebrate the Sister City and UIS connection. Jonathon said the celebration will take place near the nearly 4-mile walking path that has been landscaped with Japanese Maple trees donated by Davidsan's and with native species. He asked the UFC to participate. It was agreed that the UFC would give-away bare-root seedling trees. Susan Helm indicated that she is growing 2,000 native stems and would have milkweed plants to give out. Jonathon will provide more details later.

Amy McEuen made a motion to approve the January 12, 2022, Minutes. Ernestine Lawrence seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Jeff Reim reported that the Tree Inventory on the northeast of the City has been completed. He said that the contractor had captured 4,400 points, and that covered only 1/2 of the northeast quadrant. The remainder of the quadrant, from Walnut to I-55 and from South Grand to North Grand Avenues will be completed later. Jan Von Qualen and Jeff reported that the Tree Protection Ordinance has been given to the Mayor for his and Corporation Counsel's review.

Randy Belville stated that Twin Lakes area took about 36 Japanese Maple trees and would like to plant a few more. Randy is going to walk the grounds of the Muni and find out if the Muni could use some of the trees. Dan and Randy are going to walk areas around the lake to determine where Japanese Maple trees would be appropriate there. We need to contact Mark Mahoney and Mary Frances about the trees.

Tracy and Bill Buscher reported their concerns that the City's planned changes to decrease the accidents at the MacArthur and Lawrence Avenue intersection will speed traffic up. They counted more than 80 trees that would be removed from the parkway if MacArthur was widened from close to Fayette to Governor. It seems there are specific IDOT requirements, and a variance would be required to do less. Suggested solutions included increasing the time for the left turn arrows and adding left turn arrows on Lawrence. There is to be a meeting on March 16 and at least one more public meeting in the future.

The bare-root trees will be bagged rather than potted, this year. Randy will send out word when there is a volunteer tree wrapping event.

Jeff reported that the grates will be removed March 21. He said it is quite the process because of the size of the grates. Mulch will be placed at the base of the trees.

Susan & Ernestine reported that the Arbor Day event will be at the Boys and Girls Club this year instead of at McClernon. They were working with Silas, but he left the BGCCI. They contacted his successor, and she was unaware of the event. However, the event will proceed as planned. The Art Association is partnering with the event. It will have boys and girls paint the parking lot, then have a drone fly over to take a photo, which will be given to the Mayor.

Ethan Heileman is adopting the MacArthur improvement as his capstone project. He will touch base with us as he proceeds.

Trees Forever has not provided the applications for the carbon credit program, yet.

Old Business: The group formed to save the old Leland Summer Kitchen, successfully moved it to the park. Jeff successfully located and minimized the number of trees that had to be trimmed. He reported that Larry Rockford from Lake Services went through with a laser to precisely identify exactly what branches had to be removed. There was little trimming and no one complained.

On February 24, Anne Logue's article "Springfield's Trees Get New Respect" was published in the Illinois Times. Shortly thereafter, Brittany Carver from Girl Scouts of Central Illinois contacted Jeff and then Jan about the Girl Scout's Tree Promise: to plant 5 million trees in 5 years.

Brittany plans to connect the Girl Scouts with the UFC for tree planting and/or learning about trees.

Ruth Oliver plans to begin the tree inventory of Leland Grove as soon as leaves come out. She has 17 volunteers. Once completed, the inventory will go to the Department of Natural Resources and onto a national database.

New Business:

Jeff said the issue of removing Sweet Gum trees is being raised by Alders, again. Roy Williams also wants to create a cost-share program for removal of dead trees in residents' yards. Jeff asked Commissioners to share their suggestions about these issues. Susan Allen shared Mike Brunk's advice that any removals should be done on a case-by-case basis.

Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, a Graf Tree Care Company, will send the Urban Forestry Management Plan. We will need to set up a date to meet with the Company to discuss it.

Public comments. Noted above.

Upcoming Educational, Earth Day, and Arbor Day events were announced. The next meeting will be a hybrid with Zoom and physical attendance options, at 3:30 p.m. on May 11, 2022.

Ernestine made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Randy Belville. The motion passed unanimously.