



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission  
Minutes  
3:30 p.m. March 9, 2023  
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, Scott Marlowe, Amy McEuen, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, Dan Brill and Nate Bottom. Erskine Route was absent.

Amy McEuen made a motion to approve the February 9, 2023, Minutes. Ernestine Lawrence seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

There was a brief discussion about the Urban Forestry Management Plan from Graf Tree Company. The UFMP was updated to reflect the completion of the inventory of the northeast quadrant of the City. Highlights: include 6,121 trees; 1,801 planting spaces; 2,324 maples 38%; \$1,181,747/annual benefits to residents; \$99,276/annual environmental benefits; includes a goal for tree make-up of the forest in 10 years; includes overhead maps of heat island and flood prone areas.

Nate Bottom reported that an inventory of the southeast quadrant will begin this spring.

Susan Allen reported that the City has been awarded the \$24,750 grant for planting trees in the inventoried northeast quadrant. The City will put out a press release announcing the grant. Nate explained that the tree matching must be complete by July 2024. Reimbursement will come after the City submits locations, size, species, and condition of the trees planted.

There was also a discussion of the \$1 billion in funds for urban forestry grants under the Inflation Reduction Act. These funds could go toward large future-looking projects, staff, such as a sustainability planner, or other ambitious projects.

Randy Belville reported that he applied for the oak grant from Living Lands and Waters (LLW), in addition to the (50) Serviceberry, (100) Redbud, (100) Flowering Dogwood, and (50) Witchhazel bare root trees ordered by the City from Forrest Keeling City its Spring giveaways. Jan Von Qualen said that the Forest Releaf tree grant has also been approved.

UIS Senior, Mallory Daugherty will work with the UFC this spring for her capstone project. Another UIS student, Charlotte Lippe, has also offered to help with UFC projects.

Ernestine Lawrence gave an update for the Arbor Day event at 4:30 p.m. on April 28 at the Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers from the Illinois Audubon Society will do bird/tree identification projects with the students in advance. Randy will be the Master of Ceremonies. Jeff will get ribbons and gift cards for the students and bring a microphone. Attendees will include Mayor Langfelder, the Superintendent of District 186, Shawn Gregory.

Jeff gave an update on the Earth Awareness Day 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 at the Henson Robinson Zoo. Randy will bring the trees around 9 a.m. Susan Allen has arranged for there to be a tree planting by the Children's Garden. Ruth Oliver will plant the tree, Amy McEuen will speak. Jeff will be unable to do the set-up on the day of the event, as he will be out-town.

The tree planting workshop will be planned in April.

Guy Sternberg will present an educational program on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, at the Carnegie North Room at Lincoln Library. The room will be set up for 150 people, Randy requested an overhead.

There was a discussion about the City's spring tree planting. There are currently 50 people of the waiting list for trees. The bids for the last RFP came in around \$450 per tree. Jeff said it is difficult to get the species identified as needed in the UFMP. Randy suggested that in the future the City could economize by doing a separate RFP for the trees. The planting could be bid out separately. Randy offered to give Nate and Jeff a list of prices.

There was a discussion about the upcoming urban forest grants from the U.S. Forest Service included in the Inflation Reduction Act. Suggested ideas included a tree advocate position and rain gardens or swales for storm water collection.

Girl Scout Day at the Capitol will be Friday, May 5 at the Bank of Springfield Center, Amy, Susan and Ernestine volunteered to participate.

Scott Marlowe made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ernestine. The motion passed unanimously.