



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes
3:30 p.m. April 13, 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, Amy McEuen, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, and Dan Brill. Randy Belville, Ernestine Lawrence, Scott Marlowe, and Nate Bottom were absent.

Amy McEuen made a motion to approve the March 9, 2023, Minutes as corrected. Erskine Route seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Jeff Reim reported that the Spring planting will be in about 35 trees will be planted in areas all over the City. Ninety-five will be planted by North Gate. The low bidder for the trees is not able to supply most of the tree species that were requested in the Request for Proposal (RFP). Unfortunately, the RFP had allowances for substitutions and the tree species for this planting will be limited to 4 species: Redbud, Japanese lilac, Hackberry, and Linden. This does not comply with Springfield's Urban Forestry Management Plan. Jeff said that future RFP's will not allow substitutions.

The new administration will make the decisions about the trees and planting under the \$24,750 Tree Planting Grant.

Susan Allen reported the plans for the April 28, Arbor Day Celebration at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois (BGCCI). Weather permitting the Celebration will take place outside. Randy Belville will be the Master of Ceremonies. Tiffany Mathes, BGCCI CEO and Executive Director, and Mike Brunk, the Illinois Urban and Community Forester at the Dept. of Natural Resources will speak. Mayor Langfelder will present a Proclamation. The participating students will be given a gift card. Bare root trees will be given to those who want them.

In preparation for the Earth and Arbor Day tree giveaways, there will be a tree wrapping at the New City Greenhouse on Wed., April 19 and possibly Thurs. April 20.

Bare-root trees and the potted trees from Forest Releaf will be given away at the Earth Awareness Fair. Susan Allen has arranged for a tree planting and reading at the Children's Zoo. A volunteer from Lincoln Library will read a children's book about trees; Ruth Oliver will plant a tree; and Amy McEuen will give a short talk about the importance of trees. Amy, Erskine, Dan Brill, Ruth Oliver, and Jan Von Qualen will help with set-up. Randy Belville will deliver the trees.

Dan will check with the Lake Clubs about a location and date for a tree planting demonstration at the Lake, shortly after the Earth and Arbor Day events.

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. Susan, Amy, and Ruth will work on proposals for the U.S.D.A Forestry Service Grant, which is part of the Inflation Reduction Act. The deadline for applications is June 1. It will be a challenge to complete the application so quickly after the new administration is sworn in.

Jan will contact Serena Selinfuend about the UFC participating in Girl Scouts at the Capital on May 5. Susan, Amy, Ernestine, and Jan have indicated they could attend.

Jan announced that the application for a UIS Graduate Student Intern is now available but the deadline to apply is the end of April.

UIS freshman, Virtuous Kololafe, contacted Jan and attended the meeting. Virtuous is writing a paper about urban forestry.

Amy made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Susan. The motion passed unanimously.