



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes
3:30 p.m. August 10, 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, Ernestine Lawrence, Amy McEuen, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Dave Fuchs, Nate Bottom, Jeff Reim, and Dan Brill. Randy Belville and Scott Marlowe, were absent.

Amy McEuen made a motion to approve the April 13, 2023, Minutes. Ernestine Lawrence seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Dave Fuchs described the damage done to the urban forest and work done by Public Works with the help of several crews from the Illinois Dept. of Transportation. Governor Pritzker and Mayor Buscher declared the City to be in a state of emergency for 3 weeks. Hundreds of City and private trees were damaged or fell. The City has asked President Biden to declare it a national disaster. Public Works prepared reports itemizing the damages and costs to the City (close to \$2 million) and CWLP (between \$14 and \$17 million). It will be some time before the President makes his determination.

Jeff Reim reported that a total of 55 trees are to be planted this fall. The Request for Proposal will go out at the end of August, requesting proposals at the end of September.

Jan Von Qualen reported that consistent with the discussion in April, she had looked for a list of tree cutters in Sangamon County but found no such list. All agreed that there would be no such list because anyone with a chainsaw could consider themselves a tree cutter.

It was noted that the Tree Service Provider Annual Registration Application as provided for in both the 2020 and 2022 Arboricultural Specifications Manual is not listed with other permit applications on Public Works' website. Jan suggested that the first step in getting the word out about the requirements for cutting on City trees would be to add that Application to the list of General Forms and Permit Applications. Dave said he will bring it to the attention of City Legal.

Ernestine Lawrence and Susan Allen reported that Tyshianna Bankhead, the Executive Director of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good, is very interested in collaborating about a Harvest Party Fruit Festival in the fall of 2024.

Susan Helm informed Jan that only one response, from Mossy and Mossy, was received in responded to the letter the Native Plant Society of Central Illinois sent to all the local landscape companies about changing the landscape ordinance to encourage the planting of native species. The letter had requested input as what species the companies recommended and would make available. Mossy and Mossy supports the proposal. Jan suggested that there might be a more responses if the landscape companies received a draft of the proposed ordinance listing the plants to be recommended. Amy McEuen offered to draft a list of native plants of various sizes that would be appropriate for landscaping.

There was a Motion by Jan to move the October meeting from October 12 to October 11. Ernestine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan announced that the local chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society is planning a tree give-away event for September or October. Jan made a Motion that the UFC collaborate with the Audubon Society on the event. The Motion was seconded by Amy and passed unanimously.

Upcoming events are the October 11 UFC meeting and on October 18, Guy Sternburg will speak about legacy trees in the Carnegie North Room at the Lincoln Library.

Amy made a Motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jan, and carried unanimously.