

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Urban Forestry Commission met on October 9, 2019 at 5:00pm in the City Council Chambers in the Municipal Center West Building.

(x) Commissioner Amy McEuen	(x) Commissioner Susan Allen
(x) Commissioner Michael Pierce	(x) Commissioner Randy Belville
(x) Commissioner Jan Von Quaten	(x) Commissioner (Non-Voting) Nate Bottom
(x) Commissioner Rianne Hawkins	(x) Commissioner (Non-Voting) John Davis
(x) Commissioner Ernestine Lawrence	(x) Commissioner (Non-Voting) Jeff Reim

STAFF PRESENT:

Jessica Sheppard, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Bottom called the meeting to order.

Roll Call.

Minutes from September 11, 2019 were approved with a Motion from Commissioner Hawkins
Motion seconded by Commissioner Belville
Motion carries 7/0/0

Nate Bottom: In unfinished business, we do need to appoint a chair and a vice chair. So I don't know if you guys want to discuss that at all.

Nate Bottom: If anybody's interested in doing that, that would be great. I don't think I'm supposed to be running the meeting actually. I guess we can have that discussion briefly or if anybody's interested in doing that. Any volunteers?

Jan Von Qualen: What exactly is entailed in being the chairperson? Running the meetings? Who puts the agenda together?

Nate Bottom: Yeah. And we'll also provide that support. Public works will provide the support for you; gathering the agenda and the items. They just really need to in essence run the meeting and help steer the meeting. And then the vice chair would fill in if the chair were off. So it would be no more involvement than you already have as a commissioner.

Jan Von Qualen: I would be fine with being either the chair or the vice chair.

Amy McEuen: I would as well be willing to be either chair or vice chair.

Nate Bottom: Okay.

Nate Bottom: You want to be chair? You volunteered first. And you vice chair?

Amy McEuen: Sounds good.

Jan Von Qualen: I didn't make a copy of the agenda.

Nate Bottom: That's okay. I can help with the first meeting, but I think we would just want to at least get that established and I'll help with the transition for running the first meeting. So the next item is the urban forestry documents. I believe the Urbana plan is handed out as well as the Bloomington plan.

Jeff Reim: Yeah. Both of them.

Nate Bottom: Okay. So now we just need to start forming our own urban forestry plan. I don't know if we want to model it off of that or open that up for discussion at this time

Susan Allen: I thought both of those plans were excellent.

Amy McEuen: Yes and looking at them, it seems like the inventory is kind of really the meat and bones of both of the plans. So a lot of the data and analysis were done based on the inventory. So I don't know if that means, how we're going to do our plan given that we don't have the inventory data yet. And yet, that's one of our goals.

Jan Von Qualen: I had that thought too. I thought maybe the first thing we would do would be to make goals, one of which is to get the inventory and then another one would be the policies for the arborist, decision making and what kind of decisions he would make. Just kind of start with that. And then once we actually had the inventory, we might be able to make more decisions about exactly what the plan should look like.

Ernestine Lawrence: My thought was, first we need to discuss the purpose of it. Why do we need it and why we need the plan? And then from there once we get the purpose, then we develop our goals and our objectives. Like in the plan we need a program software which would really lead us through a lot.

Nate Bottom: Well, in regards to a program or software, it's going to take some time. We are going to have to pass something through city council to basically utilize probably one of the higher end software's to develop a model. We can develop an Excel sheet for a five year plan or for at least the first year plan and that could include requesting funding for the tree inventory. I think it's going take some time to get the tree inventory. I don't think we can just do the tree inventory right away. There are two different options we can kind of push. I know that the high end \$4 per tree is the quickest way that we can get a tree inventory. However, that's going to be a large expense that basically we're going to have to have city council approve a contract in order to be able to do that. Another way is to kind of possibly crowd source and utilize our own system and our own assets. Basically utilize GIS and allow people to do that. And that'd be cheaper, but that's gonna take years. So I did want to toss that out there in regards to the tree inventory that we really want to push, you know, possibly \$100,000 investment right off the bat.

Jan Von Qualen: In some ways it seems like since they just created the commission, it seems reasonable that we say, well, we need the inventory to make a rational plan moving forward.

Rianne Hawkins: And correct me if I'm wrong, Nate, this would have to go through an RFP process, correct? Through purchasing?

Nate Bottom: Yes.

Rianne Hawkins: It would be competitively bid, right?

Nate Bottom: Correct.

Rianne Hawkins: Okay.

Susan Allen: And to talk about the two options that you mentioned. It certainly seems that someone with expertise like that they be a tree service company bring something to it that a crowd source, you know, me going out there with GIS or

Google maps. They are definitely going to do a better time frame than like yourself.

Ernestine Lawrence: I think my question is that from last month you said we need to plant 70 more trees by the end of the year?

Nate Bottom: That was our goal. That's correct.

Ernestine Lawrence: Okay. So from that, the year 2020, we would start on the new plan, how would that work?

Nate Bottom: Our 2020 plan was to aim for 500 trees. 500 per year for the next four years. It's kind of the goal that we set initially with obviously without having the tree inventory.

Ernestine Lawrence: So right now what we're looking at is just getting the 70 planted and then start with the 2020 plan?

Nate Bottom: Yeah, that's correct. That's part of 2019.

Ernestine Lawrence: Okay.

Michael Pierce: I had a question in regards to what you have now as far as tree removal, the trees that are taken out. I heard before that you were planting a tree for every one that comes out.

Nate Bottom: That's correct. Yeah, because we're removing almost 500 a year.

Michael Pierce: But there's a lot of trees so basically it's a budget situation in regards to getting the trees in stock, to reset the trees and get the proper trees for the right areas.

Nate Bottom: That's correct.

Rianne Hawkins: Can I ask a question? Is one dependent on the other? Like if we were to advocate for spending for the tree inventory, does that sacrifice us being able to purchase trees to replant on the other end?

Nate Bottom: Ultimately that's the council's decision based upon the budget and neither are in the budget at this time.

Rianne Hawkins: Okay.

Susan Allen: Director Bottom, wouldn't that be something that the tree commission would recommend? That we'd recommend both? We could recommend, for example, both the trees and the inventory. So it's the city council of course would determine but we would make our mind up what we would want.

Nate Bottom: That's correct.

Randy Belville: So to recap a little bit of what we talked about last month the suggestion I made was that we consider downgrading the size of the trees so that maybe we could accomplish both and maintain some sort of a planting schedule, but still find some monies available for a long-term asset study of what we have and what the condition of that is. In order to do that though, there's a couple of ways around that you can ask for a request for information and there's three or four different companies out there, just not Davey group that do these, these types of tree inventories. And they have different ways to do them. Some of them are rather laborious and require graduate students to come in and actually hand inventory. Do the DBH's, look at the health of each tree, look at the species recorded, those things that are strictly on medians, parkways, sub parkways or you can even include parks as part of it, but I don't know that we really want to undertake parks. I mean we haven't defined that yet. The other way is sometimes they'll do it using Google maps or they'll also have scanners that will drive up and down the streets and scan for these particular trees. And then they use algorithms to go back then and plug in and they can capture a lot of this information based on that. But it doesn't always work so well for health of the asset, more the size and its location. So there's a lot of parameters that you can set on those companies that you want to bid that project out and what it is that you really want to, what kind of information you want to glean from that study. I think we need to determine what kind of information we need and what's the scope of that information and what's the cost. If the cost is, and I'm just going to throw a figure out there. If the costs were say to be a \$100,000, we might find it advisable to do a quadrant kind of study and come back every five years and do another quadrant. And sometimes you can glean enough information even from one quadrant of the city to make recommendations or determinations about the other. I know Jeff has talked about there's some barren areas within the city, new areas, and even some of the older areas where some of the trees have come down, but sometimes the cost might prohibit us from doing the entire city. Also, what do you do about the pockets within the city? The donuts, you know, what do you do about Leland Grove and what do you do about Southern view? Are you asking that they look at those as a whole or leaving those pockets completely out? Those are things that could be defined. I think you're going to have to eventually ask for these companies to come in and, and make a presentation based on what kind of information you're going to want from them and move forward at the same time simultaneously letting Jeff and the director move forward with those other additional fall plantings and really look more towards the future of 2020 rather than what's happening in 2019.

Jan Von Qualen: Your suggestion would be to have a couple of those companies come in and talk to us about what kind of survey they could do for us.

Randy Belville: I do, and I think we need to move relatively quickly because even if we began to create a purpose statement and some goals now, it could be January, February before some of these groups could get back. I mean, you're talking 30 days to prepare the RFP or not the RFP, but the RFI and I'll give them 60 days to work on

that and then come back at that next meeting. It could be February or March before they're prepared to make a presentation on that, which ultimately anything that we would then dissect and digest and prepare for city council approval could take as long as as next summer. So the process begins to get bogged down, but we need to, to kind of do two or three projects at the same time here. I guess that's what I'm saying is that don't get lost in the forest.

Nate Bottom: Well I think we should take a look and see what other communities have done in regards to putting out an RFP because maybe we can do it a little bit quicker. I think that's a little longer than it may possibly take them. Go ahead and see what others have done and then just putting an RFP out, get the request out there and consider maybe breaking it up into quadrants, maybe along corridors, you know, the major arterials and beautifying the corridors. Maybe take a look and have them possibly even propose some various options there.

Randy Belville: Yeah, I just think to keep the cost down though we've got to kind of define the scope of this and where it's gonna you know, and then we may have to just draw some conclusions from that. What we see here and there maybe.

Nate Bottom: It'll be focused to the city of Springfield. We're not going to do other communities.

Randy Belville: No, I'm just saying I hope that they don't, you know, look at the map and say, okay, well you're 25 square miles or whatever, you know, and this is going to cost you, you know, 78,000 or something like that versus breaking it down and just doing like a fourth of that and maybe reducing the cost. That's why I brought up that some of the cities actually included parks and parkways and parklets they call them like small little parklets as well. So who owns a parklet?

Nate Bottom: I don't think we'd be including parks with this.

Randy Belville: Okay. In any parklets or any areas like that?

Nate Bottom: It would just be along the street right of way.

Randy Belville: Okay.

Nate Bottom: It would be the most cost effective way to do it.

Michael Pierce: Do you have set already for priorities in certain areas that are needing attention now? You know, in regards to like the trees that are coming out and the trees that are planting?

Nate Bottom: No, we don't at this time we know that we're moving quite a few Ash trees in certain areas like you know, Stratford Place was one area that we've removed quite a few Ash trees that didn't have diversity in that area. So we know that that's a problem area. However, getting this inventory obviously would help.

Michael Pierce: Right. Well that's the other thing too is you know, you got the tree removals gotta be done, you know, grinding of the stumps, you know you've got a good month before you can set trees back in there for the burning of the mulch and all that.

Nate Bottom: We have a good record of that because we have our own, we have city works, our asset management system that we utilize to do the removal and the removal of the stumps. We do have a good record of that and where those locations are over the last couple of years.

Jeff Reim: As for location of the trees, I know this is further down on the agenda, but for the full tree replacement I picked a couple of different areas. I had a meeting with the mayor last Friday and I advised him that we probably should do Stratford place to start with. They have over a hundred and some ash trees that are coming out. I was a little bit overruled, what he wants to do is one of the corridors, so he wants to do Clear Lake Avenue. He wants to line Clear Lake Avenue with trees for this fall tree replacement plan. Then we can figure out maybe do Stratford Place for next year, put our heads together and see what area we want to do for 2020, but Stratford Place is really bad, and Koke Mill West is losing quite a few as well.

Michael Pierce: I mean that's the important thing, you know what I mean? Is knowing where the priorities are set and getting there. And then also the budget on how big a tree you actually can get. In regards to the size, last month you guys talked about that. But in regards to that inch and a quarter caliber, was that what you're looking at?

Jeff Reim: That was the standard set by the arborist before me. So that's what I was going by. But then you know, as we talked in October Randy brought up the idea of maybe going with, what did we say, Randy? A one inch?

Michael Pierce: Just to reduce the costs?

Jeff Reim: Yes, to reduce costs, but, you know, I reached out today to an individual and they were saying bald and burlap trees would be probably a better option for a lot of reasons. We don't want to have to stake any of these trees, number one. We get any type of container trees and you're looking at girdling roots out of 'em too. So we kinda gotta look at that Avenue as well.

Michael Pierce: Which is definitely a problem. You know, the girdle roots and they stay too long in those and they wrap around. By the time you get that tree set in. Now you've got a problem with curdled roots wrapped.

Jeff Reim: It's a big problem with the container trees.

Jan Von Qualen: So that puts us back to paying a lot more per tree then, and fewer trees planted.

Susan Allen: But you had already said that there would be 70 at the original caliber, so there would be 70. That was the plan, right? Director?

Jeff Reim: When I spoke with the mayor Friday and we sat down he was looking at doing \$20,000 for this fall, but then he upped it and said that he would like to do \$40,000.

Susan Allen: And approximately was it \$300 per tree? So \$40,000 divided by \$300. Is that what it is?

Jeff Reim: \$270, \$275 standard. But as you know, we're going to put out an RFP for this. So you know, we're gonna try to get more bang for the buck out of this.

Rianne Hawkins: Is my math right? That gives us 145 trees. That's a little bit short than the 500 that was originally planned.

Nate Bottom: That's for moving forward. That's not this year.

Rianne Hawkins: Got it. Okay.

Jan Von Qualen: But you think they're all going to go along Clear Lake?

Jeff Reim: That was his directive for this fall. Now if we, if we get a contractor and you know, he comes in low and we're able to get a lot of trees for our money, then we can expand and go further with them. Clear Lake is one of the main avenues coming in, and correct me if I'm wrong director, but we did take over that whole area now.

Nate Bottom: No, it's the state. So we'll look at it.

Jan Von Qualen: But it would be a combination, a mix of these trees that are in this list that you gave us.

Jeff Reim: Yeah. What I did was I sent out that email individually to everyone and just to kind of put everybody's thoughts and ideas on there of what they had chosen for a tree.

Jan Von Qualen: But the thought would be if they were planting it along Clear Lake, it would be a common and diverse group of trees?

Jeff Reim: Correct.

Nate Bottom: Definitely.

Jeff Reim: But I guess we'll backtrack a little bit, Director Bottom after he said that maybe we would look into seeing what's going on with Clear Lake first.

Jan Von Qualen: South grand Avenue also could use some trees. It's another entryway into the city that could really use them.

Jeff Reim: Absolutely. We did have a plan for that one and then we also had a plan for where Darcy's Pint sat in that area. Stanford Avenue.

Michael Pierce: I don't think there's any trees over there. Is there? That main road?

Susan Allen: Doesn't seem like it.

Rianne Hawkins: So are we, I guess my question is where do we fit in, in setting this policy, right? It looks like the Mayor would like to prioritize entryways into the city over residential. I would have issue with that. I think it should be reversed personally. But where does our commission sit in making that recommendation to the Mayor? And by extension the council.

Randy Belville: I would hope that he would be open and willing to accept recommendations for 2020 but I think, in what we've had to work with over the last 10 to 15 years without a commission, I mean those decisions have been left up to the city arborist and the direction of the Mayor. So I think they're just continuing to move in that direction. But at the same time as my understanding of what he had said last month too, was okay, I know I've been making these decisions, but we need to get some guidance from you guys and let you guys start having input into how we're going to address those things. And so I don't know necessarily, I can kind of feel that tug of, okay, but he's setting that. But I think he's setting that because that was, those were things that are already in motion and he knows it's going to take a while to get our wheels moving here. But I don't think that that's his plan, the way I understood it for future. I thought he would consider our guidance and recommendations.

Randy Belville: I also know what you're saying too about there are these main quarters that we've talked about for probably six years. At one point there was discussions on whether or not to redo the entire entryway from Abraham Lincoln or the airport because every single tree was removed when that lighting issue came up and they removed all of that, that lighting. So that's not been replaced and I know that's still high on his priority list is to catch that and redo that. I think we've redone some other, like a little parklet over there on North Grand. They tried to address that last year. I know that he's looked at that 6th Street entryway and there was some initiative there to put that new sign up and re-landscape that, and I know that he's talking about there's an initiative out by Wabash where they've removed the one center median and then just even as of last week, I think they removed another center median out there. So he wants to address that corridor so I think it's a multifaceted kind of, you know, from all directions. It's just, we gotta get a temper that I guess a little bit here and there and then get back to making sure that what you're still taking care of some of the neighborhoods as well. I think we can do that you guys. Even though it might not be inch and three quarter or two and a half inch caliber, they're still smaller part grade trees that you can get that are even BNB that are just a smaller

caliber. You just gotta throw that out there and ask them to get back to you. I mean, you know, it's like, do you want a 2-carat diamond? Are you, do you want a half carat diamond? You know, that's, that's what you're asking them to do. So you've gotta set the standard and then say, this is what we would like. What can you do for us? They're going to find it.

Susan Allen: And on the issue of how many trees would be planted you know, the 140 trees, that sounds great. So when we were talking about 70, and the mayor said 140, I'm just all for that and 500 the next year, that's what the city is willing to do. You know, I don't think there's anything stopping us from going out and encouraging the private sector to join us and plant another 500 trees for next year or the following year whenever we could get it in place to do a thousand trees, half with the city and half with corporate partners. And frankly I think they'd be interested in doing that for a healthy Springfield.

Nate Bottom: Yeah. And last night, Alderman Redpath brought up basically allowing people to buy trees from the city so they get a better rate and a better deal.

Jan Von Qualen: It's all kinds of things. There's grants too, I know DNR has grants. If we wanted to do anything for storm water you can get money to put trees if we knew where we want. But it goes back to Ernestine's suggestion. We kind of first have to decide what, you know, kinda get our feet on the ground about where we want to go or how we want to approach it.

Amy McEuen: Before we move on, I want to go back to Rianne's point about like the corridors versus residences. And one thing we might think about as a commission is whether we have like a percentage recommendation, you know, something very concrete that we could say, okay, if you're going to put this percent of the trees planted into beautification for visitors and people coming in quarterly, we want this percent. And I'm not going to suggest a percent, but that might be a way forward.

Randy Belville: Yeah. I like that idea too.

Rianne Hawkins: For our purposes, I'm happy to get the discussion rolling and clearly just discussion purposes. I think the majority of our focus needs to be residential, especially since a lot of the trees are coming down in these residential neighborhoods. That's where people are seeing them a lot. You know, when you're whizzing by on Clear Lake at 40 miles an hour, I don't notice the tree, I mean obviously it would make it more beautiful, but I'd notice if a tree is down in my front yard so I'm going to say 60, 40. 60 residential, 40 gateways.

Ernestine Lawrence: I like the residential because first of all, I think if you get a buy in from the people, that's most important thing is getting that buy in. And if they have you buy in and they know that you are listening to them, that'll put us much ahead.

Susan Allen: I agree with Ernestine. We've seen some letters to the paper where people have said, you know, a lot of trees are coming down. We need more trees planted and the more they can see those trees, and you're right to have the buy in from people in the city.

Ernestine Lawrence: And then also if we, I don't know how you would do it, but if we involve the community and see what they feel about, you know, what do you think is important? And if they say the entryways then we go that way. But at least they've had their input. And that's very important because it's, you know, they're not left out. This is the way the community feels but if they say the residential areas and we are supposed to be beautifying Springfield and they give their input about the residential areas and make it much more easier because we are looking at beautification, we're looking at storm system, we're looking at health. So there's a lot of things to look at from the residential area.

Nate Bottom: Yeah. I think we need to take a holistic approach and you obviously want to beautify it and make it inviting too, to the people coming in as well as us on our daily drives to and from work. But we are definitely removing them. Not just the commercial areas and major corridors, but the residential areas. And I know that the mayor wants to take a holistic approach. I think you can get buy in doing the corridors. Oh Hey, look at how nice, Clear Lake is now. You can get buy in from everybody. But I do agree they need to be in the residential areas too. I think we're probably going to be reviewing sometime we're going to have plans where we know the locations whenever we put them out to bid. These are the locations we're planning on bidding and you'll be involved in that process.

Nate Bottom: I hate to set a percentage though on anything right now, but I think that we should have a nice healthy discussion about it.

Ernestine Lawrence: And even if we just ever made it an invite to the community, just to listen to what they think. That's most important. They are being heard. Everybody's being heard.

Nate Bottom: They're invited to this meeting.

Randy Belville: What are some things we have to do to get our tree designation back is an Arbor day event, is that correct?

Susan Allen: Yes, that is correct.

Randy Belville: Okay. So as a member of the Illinois Green Goods Association, every year at the state fair for that 10 days that we run that we give about 1200 trees away. Unfortunately they don't stay in Springfield. They go throughout the entire state. You know, any visitor that comes can get a tree if you go down in there in the conservation world. This particular year I think we did red Oaks I believe, and I think we did tulip trees and we had those donated, but the cost of those was like, I think when I saw them in the book was like a \$1.13 a piece. I would

hope that you guys would consider as we move forward towards earth day, that we do an Arbor day event and that we set a few funds aside and maybe if we can identify some of those barren areas within the city that we let those school children then take some of those trees home perhaps and plant and that we give them some guidance if we could come up with some guidance on where and how to place them and things like that. So that they get the right tree in the right areas and that we make the right purchase decision. You know, whether we're wanting Oaks or whether you're wanting red buds or, you know, I mean, you don't want the Oaks growing up into the tree line. So maybe buy the redbuds instead. I'm just throwing that out there, but I'd like to see us reserve some funds in 2020, if you can. Not a lot. I don't think it needs to be a lot. I think you could buy a lot of trees for, you know, a few hundred dollars, those baby trees and maybe have an earth day and if you just do one school in one part of the town one year and maybe the next year where we're headed out towards the Koke Mill area and do that Koke Mill school that's out there, you know, and then the next year we're over here in this area, something like that so that every year it's in a different area of town that we're trying to populate those trees back in there and that it's a tree from our list. But that's one of the things we have to do to get back. That designation.

Susan Allen: And Randy, I was thinking along the same lines of an Arbor day celebration and we had asked the mayor was he willing to do that at the last meeting? And I think he said he would. And I'm willing to work on the celebration. Like you say, it's at the end of April. If we had like an essay contest or a slogan contest or a poster contest among the school children in Springfield. And whoever wins and then the mayor goes out there and plants a tree and gets a lot of good publicity and like you say, distribute trees. It's practically free and you get a lot of good publicity out of it.

Randy Belville: And we did that a lot in the early seventies. I'm sure you know that that's how a lot of these trees got planted in town and some of these areas, you know, some of the white Pines and some of those little trees that you guys like. But I just, I really think we could do a lot, do the buy in there that gets the community back involved and involves the children and then we just ask them not to plant it in their backyard but plant on, you know, on a right of way.

Susan Allen: I'm willing to work on that with anybody who'd want to, between the next meetings, you know, would involve a little bit of planning, but you know, is anyone interested in working on an Arbor day's celebration?

Rianne Hawkins: I'd be happy to work with you Susan.

Randy Belville: I would to Susan, if you'd let me.

Jan Von Qualen: I think it's a great idea too and it's educational. Can remind the kids, get kids interested in trees, start of a lifelong love.

Ernestine Lawrence: And then also like the high school students that are in these honor programs, they might for hours and things, they might want to be a part of this so we can look at them because they have to put in so many hours.

Randy Belville: You know, one of the fun things that we did back when I was in college studying or as we had developed within our city, a map of, you know, everybody has to have an eighth grade leaf collection or whatever grade you want to call it, seventh or eighth grade. So we actually had a map of all the different trees and where we could find them. And I know that the park used to have a map down there at Washington park where you can find 50 different species of trees. But wouldn't it be cool if as a little subset under our, our website, okay, parents, here you go. You know, if you don't go in and walk around the park in the middle of the night and get these trees, you know, you can find one. You know, maybe it's just the 25 species in the first draft. It'd be kind of cool to let people know that. Yeah, we actually do have some diversity within our trees, within the streets and stuff like that. I don't know how much IT can put on there, but I think it'd be an easy map to come up with.

Jeff Reim: I think Oak Ridge cemetery does something like that. Guy Sternberg.

Randy Belville: Yeah, I've seen his tree walks and actually if you guys haven't been to one of those tree walks, they're very, very interesting. Just had one. And I know he's looking for volunteers for next year already.

Randy Belville: So how do we work on this purpose statement? How do we get back to our purpose statement so that we get that down and defined and can we do that as a group or should we do that as a committee?

Susan Allen: I kinda like the idea of people taking certain things. Like if we took Arbor day and then another group of people took, you know, policies then kind of worked on it and came back and you know, you get kind of more bang for your buck that way.

Rianne Hawkins: Well, can we adopt the purpose statement that's already in ordinance? It is the purpose of this chapter meeting urban forestry. We can, you know, change the language, to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the regulation of planting maintenance and removal of trees, shrubs, and other plants. I think that sounds pretty comprehensive to me. I mean we can alter the language so we're making it clear that the plan's purpose is this. Why reinvent the wheel when we don't have to?

Nate Bottom: Yeah, we can't change code or anything along those lines.

Susan Allen: Something I, I like, and I think it was in Urbana's plan, they started with the value of a tree. And I think any tree has a value. And it's important to remember that to the city, the city's trees have a value and if someone takes them down and they're not telling the city, you know, they've taken value from the city. So

if, if we have in our purpose statement that trees have a variety of values, like you were saying Ernestine, the public health. I think we had that in there, but the storm water, the beauty, filtering with the air pollution, you know, trees have value.

Rianne Hawkins: So maybe take this purpose statement and then add at the end of it. It is the purpose of this plan to demonstrate the trees have value in the city of Springfield.

Randy Belville: It's gets us started at least.

Rianne Hawkins: It get's us started. Yes, I agree.

Randy Belville: So do you need a motion to accept that? Or do you just want to do it by acclimation that we start with that or how do you want to handle that?

Nate Bottom: What document were you looking at?

Rianne Hawkins: Chapter 102 of the city code.

Nate Bottom: We can't just change city code.

Rianne Hawkins: We wouldn't change city code this is what would be in the Urban Forestry Plan.

Nate Bottom: Okay. I just wanted to clarify that.

Amy McEuen: And then we're adding something like, so as to demonstrate the value of trees to our community. Something like that.

Rianne Hawkins: Yeah.

Amy McEuen: Okay.

Jan Von Qualen: We have exact words then?

Rianne Hawkins: I think initially I'd said it is the purpose of this plan because this all referenced the Urban Forestry Plan to demonstrate the trees have a value in the city of Springfield.

Jan Von Qualen: Is that a motion?

Rianne Hawkins: I will make that motion.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there a second?

Amy McEuen: I'll second.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there any discussion about it? Any further discussion?

Randy Belville: I just believe it's a good starting point. Let's get it started and we can amend it later if we need to but I think it gets us moving.

Jan Von Qualen: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Any opposed?

Jan Von Qualen: Alright. We have the first part of our plan agreed on.

Jan Von Qualen: We'll get it from the minutes exactly what it is, I guess.

Jan Von Qualen: Well, I see that the arbor-cultural, now that's a word, specifications manual is mentioned in our agenda. I don't know, did anybody take a look at this? I looked at it. We still require permits? Some of this stuff I think is very good in here but I was surprised to see it and I wonder is there actually a permit that people get to do anything on a Parkway?

Nate Bottom: There is a permit that they are supposed to get if they're doing work on the Parkway.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay.

Nate Bottom: Jeff has the tree work permit.

Jeff Reim: Absolutely. Yes.

Jan Von Qualen: So that's still in effect. And the other thing I thought that was very interesting here and kind of goes along with our discussion about trees and that is saving the trees. Like I know we had the discussion last month about all the trees that went down by the church, Westminster, but they did get permission to do that I guess. But I see in here, and I wonder if it's still true that when things are constructed there has to be a plan of what trees they're going to save, where all the city trees are and what ones they're going to save?

Nate Bottom: Yes, they're supposed to do that as well as they're also supposed to show whatever their new plan is in regards to landscaping and planting new trees. Whenever new construction or additions are occurring.

Rianne Hawkins: So director, I take it by the way that you're saying these sentences that's not happening right now?

- Nate Bottom: No, people still are. They're supposed to be. I'm not saying it's happening all the time. But they're supposed to be doing that. If we find out about it, we address it.
- Jeff Reim: The guy from the church who I gave the permit to the last time I talked to him he was actually talking to me from the hospital. He was in the hospital, but I told him that I needed the landscape design. How many trees he's putting in and where they're going. So I'm waiting on that.
- Michael Pierce: Well, I do know, especially along the Lake, any tree company that goes in there and is going to do any tree trimming or removal, has to get with CWLP and they have to have, Dan Brill was running it there, I believe. I don't know if it's gone somewhere else, but I know there has been some changes in regards to that where no live green trees are taken out. They would go by, look, okay the house is going to go here and those trees got to go. Well now they're taking a broader look and saying, well, you can possibly move the house over here and save this 200 year old Oak tree. And I think it's a good standard because, I mean, those trees have been around, they're very healthy and they're doing a lot of good. So beautification of our city I think is very important and I think this step towards having permits for looking at trees, whether it's removing, trimming, that they're done in a right procedure.
- Jeff Reim: If I could add onto that, I will say that I don't have any control over the permit process for the lake area.
- Rianne Hawkins: Is there a way we can copy it though? I mean, I understand the lake area is CWLP property, totally get that. But why reinvent the wheel when you don't have to? If we can just copy what CWLP does, then it becomes a standard city wide.
- Michael Pierce: Well if I could answer that, it is actually getting better because it seems like, and this is just me as a tree business, depending on who's in charge there is the way it operates, but it seems like there's a good standard now and they're really taking a good look in regards to saving the trees, proper trimming being in the trees because we did have a lot of tree companies come through here and they were just, I don't know if you know the term hat racking and they were really just cutting back these trees way too hard and which I brought up to CWLP saying, Whoa, Whoa, this has got to stop because what they're doing is killing trees, you know, in two years, three years down the road, we'll be taking that tree out. So back to the standard, I think yeah they're really tightening down on the standard, CWLP is and I agree I think the city needs to do the same.
- Jan Von Qualen: I think that would be something that would be in our plan not to be done immediately but something we need to look at other plans and see what they have done about directing when and how trees should be trimmed or taken down.

Susan Allen: Director Bottom, didn't you say someone from CWLP would be here?

Nate Bottom: Yes. And John's here.

Susan Allen: Okay. We did have a question about the tree trimming. I don't know if this is the time or do you want to wait for?

Nate Bottom: Go for it.

Susan Allen: I think people are, or I think it's fair to say upset about some of the tree trimming that are done. I know the mayor said at the last meeting, you know, I think he used the word horrible. If it wasn't the word horrible...

John Davis: I think he used the word travesty.

Susan Allen: He might have used the word travesty. You know, the Arbor day foundation has something called Tree Line USA and it's regarding tree trimming for utilities. And one thing that they require is each year to have some training for the contractor that would do the tree trimming. Do you have any reaction to the tree trimming that's done?

John Davis: I mean, yeah. The purpose of tree trimming around or for line clearance is twofold. One is safety for individuals on the trees. And second is to maintain our power lines in a safe manner that we don't have unnecessary outages. All of our tree trimmers, you know we contract through Nelson, Nelson utilizes the ANSI A300 standards, the Z133 standards as far as street trimming. We need to maintain a 10 foot clearance from our lines. So when people say, why did you trim this tree back so far, we're turning back to maintain a 10 foot clearance from our lines. All of that tree trimming is done according to the standards set by the International Society Arborist, the National Arborist Association and Utility Arborist Association, we have received Tree Line city award many times in the past, but we've stopped applying for it. But I think Jeff talked with our people here this year about trying to get back onto that certification that we can have that up. But Nelson is trained yearly. I mean they go through a process of an apprenticeship for all their employees to make sure they are trained on what they're doing.

John Davis: One other thing to add to that. I know it looks bad when you drive down 11th street right now and you see some of the trees that have been trimmed but go to any town, anywhere around lines and it's exactly the same thing. I printed up some pictures of five drawings just that I took offline, I just Googled of tree trimming around power lines throughout the country. And it's also what we do.

Michael Pierce: You know, I totally agree on that. In regards to cutting back the 10 foot. I mean there's times that the tree looks bad. I was not referring to tree line clearing, but however that is, I mean it's definitely important and they need to be cut back. Otherwise you're going to have power outages, you know? And there's

also, I don't know if Springfield's ever had that, but I know in other States there's fines for neglecting the maintenance on your lines, power lines.

John Davis:

That's correct.

Jan Von Qualen:

But there are certain ways you can trim the tree so that they can go over the line or out away from it.

Michael Pierce:

There is and there isn't. You've got to use a fine judgment on that because in regards to the weight bearing on the tree, yes some people talk about going up and around but then you're over extending that limb with weight, you know, which now causes a hazard to the traffic, you know, so you gotta be real careful with that. And I know a lot of trimmers are very lenient to do it that way because they want to get that line cut back and clear.

John Davis:

Yeah. I mean we trim over 600 miles of line. We try and do it on a five year cycle, we're on about six, six and a half year cycle right now. That means every year we are trimming over a hundred miles of transmission and distribution lines. We budget about \$2.7 million in that program, but when you're only coming back to that tree every five to six years, you have to make sure it's trimmed back far enough. Otherwise we'll be right back into that line within a matter of a year or two and unless we want to spend \$6 million a year on tree trimming that's how it has to be done.

Susan Allen:

If you could apply again for that Tree Line USA, you said that's what you're thinking of?

John Davis:

Yes. I think Jeff spoke with Amber Sabin, our PIO, here a few months ago about trying to get that for next year. So we will be looking at that.

Susan Allen:

Great.

Amy McEuen:

I just have one point. I think also in terms of the plan, we can think about those locations, transitioning them over time from big trees to you know, more of these ornamental shrubs and their maximum height will be below the lines and then that saves...

John Davis:

Yeah, that's the ultimate goal is not to have the trees grow that tall.

Jeff Reim:

I'm kind of wondering, and correct me if I'm wrong, but a lot of these trees were probably put in before the lines. Right?

John Davis:

I don't know if I agree with that.

Jan Von Qualen:

Well that can be part of our education thing too because I think people don't realize, I know I've planted trees underlines when I was a kid, didn't think about

it a bit how big those trees were going to be. It's hard to understand how big they get.

John Davis: We've gone to some of the local nurseries and given them trees that will underneath power lines for us. But it is sometimes just up to the individuals.

Nate Bottom: We probably should add to our agenda public comments too. I do see a couple people from the public. Do you guys have anything to add or?

Charlie Stratton: My name's Charlie Stratton. I'm a resident and tree-hugger I guess, but I'm a very practical tree hugger. Nate Bottoms knows, I talk to him once in a while about trees. First of all, I'm super glad you guys are doing this. This is great. And obviously you got a lot of expertise in the room. I'm also on the planning and zoning commission, so I'm involved in that level. But there's a ton of people here that know an awful lot about this subject and that's super encouraging and also lots of people that are very interested in furthering this along. So this is, this is really exciting. I guess one question I would have is, is it possible to get the inventory that you spoke of from Urbana and Bloomington? Is that something that I can FOIA so that I can look at it or can you just send it to me or I'm just curious as to what they've done and how that works and all that kind of stuff.

Rianne Hawkins: Correct me if I'm wrong, I believe they're available online.

Charlie Stratton: Oh are they on their website? Okay. I wasn't really sure. OK. I'll, I'll find those. And then you talked a little bit about mission statement or purpose, so that's really cool. You guys are working on that. Do you have bylaws? I mean, are there bylaws yet of this meeting, this group rather?

Jan Von Qualen: I know that I took a look at what Urbana had for their bylaws and procedures and I sent to Jeff and Susan something. I think we could adopt something that is very similar, just changes it to Springfield and then our ordinances slightly different than the Urbana ordinance. But yes, we will have them.

Charlie Stratton: Okay. And it meets like monthly?

Nate Bottom: It's bi-monthly. However, if we need to have, we need to meet at least six times a year per the code.

Charlie Stratton: Is there like an email list that everybody is on? Cause I'd like to be on that list.

Jan Von Qualen: I would actually like to have everyone's email too because although we can't go back and forth with each other, we could send each other information and you know, that would make things move faster I think at the meetings.

Charlie Stratton: Yeah. I'm just obviously interested in the topic and I'd just like to know what, you know, what's going on. It's a lot of good ideas and things like that. Is there a budget associated with this particular? I mean cause obviously that's the

gasoline and the engine that makes this thing happen or not happen. And so as committed as everybody is and knowledgeable as they are, if you don't have any money or there's not a push behind it might not happen.

Nate Bottom: So we're making the push in order to get the money this time and we'll be asking for money with the next budget cycle. We're starting the budget cycle here shortly. So a lot of this is kind of next fiscal year. We're getting the ball rolling though. We want to get the numbers like say on the, on the tree inventory. That's going to be a large cost. And then we're also planning on asking for money for 500 trees next year as well as some other smaller initiatives that we're planning on at least, goals to get next year's kind of capital improvement plan together here quickly so that we can have that asked at the next budget cycle.

Charlie Stratton: It sounds like there's like some different ideas about, you know, do we get more trees that are smaller or larger trees that in recognizing that it's more expensive. And so I guess it sounds like you're taking all that into consideration. That's, that's super good. I wondered real quick about the replacement of trees cause I happen to agree with you about the residents. As a member of the public, I would say that neighborhoods would be, you know, my focus and I think somebody said, you know, it's great you're coming into the city and you're going 40 miles an hour and you could stop and look at a tree, might cause an accident. But in my neighborhood I notice those things. But I mean, is there a plan to, you know, when you take out a tree that we are committed to replacing one or, I mean, my preference would be my neighborhood, but we all live in different neighborhoods and that's gonna be other people's priorities. But if you were to identify those places where more trees had been taken out, I would think that would be where you would want to focus your efforts. In terms of the residential areas, you know, if some areas are hit really hard with Ash tree removal, then Hey look, we, we lost 10 trees. Let's replace 8 trees or let's replace 12 trees or whatever it ends up being. Is there some kind of a plan to do that?

Nate Bottom: That's what we're working on. We're trying to develop that plan. And you just heard discussion about that earlier tonight.

Charlie Stratton: I guess maybe I missed the first meeting, has there only been one other meeting? Okay. Okay. I just want to get as much information as I can about how that's gonna work. Cause you know in my neighborhood, I got a lot of stumps and you know, they come out eventually but then there hasn't been a lot of tree replacement in my neighborhood and that's how I got kind of interested in this topic.

Susan Allen: Director Bottom, you did say the city plans that take out 500 trees and plant 500 trees. So it's kind of a one for one. You know, we might replace more with private funds but taking out 500 replacing 500, right?

Nate Bottom: That's correct.

Charlie Stratton: Yeah. I did hear that part of the discussion and but when we say, well that's the plan or that's what we're shooting for. Yeah, okay.

Nate Bottom: And that's what this commission is for, is to help provide some guidance and oversight. And we are in the infant stages, we're just starting to develop the plan. Right? I mean that's kind of the, that's the loose goal right now. Maybe, maybe more, who knows. It may be less the first year because we're trying to do the tree inventory. That's why we're working on this, having this discussion.

Charlie Stratton: I'm super encouraged. It's really exciting.

Rianne Hawkins: I think Randy said it earlier, you know, that unfortunately this commission has not been sat for many, many years and the mayor was kind of doing it ad hoc. Now he's got a group of professionals and interested members of the public and we'll hopefully make a recommendation because I agree with you, residential over gateways is my preference. I don't think we took a formal vote of everybody here, so I can't speak for everybody.

Charlie Stratton: Yeah. I mean it's just really super encouraging and I'm, you know, excited to come to all the meetings you have. One last thing on the, on the value of the trees. I think like, I don't know how you get the message out, but I think if people really appreciated the real, I said I'm a tree hugger, but I think I'm a pretty practical one that people understood the benefit as a homeowner in terms of energy savings or in terms of beautification, but as it relates to resale and things that really are meaningful to people. I mean I think it's great if people are talking about, well, you know, pollution and climate change and stuff like that. So I'm not opposed to that. But at that time tends to get kind of in theory. If we really were able to communicate to people, this will benefit you as a homeowner. I think that there's a lot of data, I think to support that as well.

Susan Allen: There is a site called treebenefits.com and we had put in a maple tree and it's not that old, but I wanted to see how that tree is working for me. And it said that little tree, so it comes up with all the benefits of the tree you put in and said, that tree is bringing me \$45 every year.

Speaker 11: Yeah. No, I mean that's the kind of stuff that I think if people really appreciate it. A lot of times people go, I don't want to rake, I'd just rather have like the meaning of nothing on it and then I won't have to rake. But if they really understood the real concrete tangible benefits and selling value.

Nate Bottom: I agree and that's one of the responsibilities is to help develop educational material and to do some outreach.

Charlie Stratton: Yeah but I mean all the ideas that you guys have are super great. Thanks for putting this together and participating and letting me speak. So thank you.

Nate Bottom: Thanks for coming.

Jan Von Qualen: Alright, anything else to talk about tonight? One thing I thought we should all think about maybe between now and the next meeting is what are our goals and what kind of timeframe we have on different ones. Like I think when I look at this Urbana plan, I think it's beautiful but it doesn't look like something we're going to do in a month or two. It's going to take a lot of time and planning. I found like a template and it had a lot of places in it like where you put your goal and what your timeline is. Because if we have specific goals and if we talk about what our goals are, we can prioritize them and we want to get something done so we can tell people we've done this, we're going to do this, this and this. But this was the first thing we were going to do and we've done it. So I think it would be nice if in the next month we have meeting next month again. Right? Each of us could kind of think about what we think would be a short term, long term, medium term goal and then we can all talk about them. We'll all have different ideas. I'm sure.

Michael Pierce: I think that's great. You know, the short term goals that we can achieve and accomplish are huge. So I mean a little bit like we accomplish that goal and we continue to, to build to this main thing that we're after. And that's beautifying the trees and making the planting of all the trees that we can and then develop you know, a greenscape that is enormous. I think that's a great way to do it. But we start at a small goal and continue.

Jan Von Qualen: And one of which would be the Arbor day.

Susan Allen: I think another simple goal, you know, many people on this commission are, have wonderful background in trees. I could learn more myself. So I thought just a simple thing we could do is have an educational session for whoever wanted to come, you know, not at our meeting but at another time and have the tree commission. But members of the public, talk about the benefit of the trees and you know, some information about trees and that wouldn't be hard to do. And we can get an expert to talk on that.

Jan Von Qualen: We even have an expert on our commission.

Jan Von Qualen: No, but I think that's a great idea. I know I could stand to learn a lot and I think the public could too, and it would appreciate, make them appreciate it more why it's worth raking.

Randy Belville: I wanted to address one thing that Charlie said and that was, I don't it's our goal or it shouldn't be our goal just for one for one replacement though. I don't think anybody wins if it's just we take down a tree and replace it for you. I think our goal has to be greater than that. You know even the pamphlet that you see going around right now from Urbana, even their goal is two to three trees replaced for every tree that comes down. We'll never get that tree designation, not that that means as much as our health and well-being, we need a healthy environment that's full of trees and a diversification of trees. Not just one species of trees, but we'll get there over time, we're just dipping our feet in the

pool so to speak in the last two meetings. But we know we can see the task before is greater than what we probably anticipated.

Jeff Reim: Randy and I completely agree with you and I think Rianne can agree as well that, I think the park district does like for every one tree that's taken down, I think they go with two or three.

Amy McEuen: So on Jan's point about the template, I also found online a toolkit. So if you go to a urban forestry plan toolkit, I can send everyone that URL for that. But that's really nice because it's interactive and it goes through a lot of the questions.

Jan Von Qualen: Oh good.

Ernestine Lawrence: Yeah, I saw that. That is excellent. Excellent start.

Rianne Hawkins: I think that's some good homework.

Jan Von Qualen: We have also on here, we talked about the fall tree replacement. Are we going to talk about Boulevard tree watering ideas tonight?

Rianne Hawkins: Can I just back up for a second? Jeff, do you need a formal vote of the commission to approve this list or was this just advisory?

Jeff Reim: That, before we finish up here. What you guys want to do with going with either residential or gateways that way Director Bottom can get with the mayor and advise. Hey, the commission would really like to concentrate on residential areas for the fall. So if we could maybe finalize that.

Rianne Hawkins: I think the easier of those two is to approve this list.

Jan Von Qualen: I think so.

Rianne Hawkins: Yeah. I didn't mean to step on your toes Jeff.

Jeff Reim: With that list. I tried to go with, you know, everyone's idea and and compromise.

Randy Belville: I thought that was a good round selection. I mean, it wasn't heavy in any one particular genre,

Rianne Hawkins: I'll make a motion to approve the list for the inventory for the fall tree replacement program.

Amy McEuen: I'll second that.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there any discussion?

Jan Von Qualen: I'm going to agree with Randy. It's a good list. It looks a lot better balanced, there'll be a diversity of trees.

Amy McEuen: Yeah. I'll also add that I sent the list or something pretty close to it to Dr. Stokes, who does our dendrology class at UIS, and he liked it. He was like, it looks great.

Jan Von Qualen: Any further discussion? All in favor of approving the list say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Any opposed? Okay. The list has been approved. And then the next thing is to have the discussion and motion about the gateway versus residential for the fall tree planting.

Randy Belville: Well, if you take that dollar amount and you divide that out. Like I think you said it was like 145 trees. Correct?

Rianne Hawkins: Correct.145 trees.

Randy Belville: 145 trees, that's a lot for a half mile corridor. I mean that's, that's more than one tree per block in that gateway corridor. Even if you did both sides of it, I think that's excessive for that one quarter. I'm sorry. I really do. No, I'm not sorry. I think that's excessive.

Rianne Hawkins: Just to kick off the discussion, I'll make a motion that we recommend to the mayor that he focus the fall tree planting on residential as opposed to just solely gateway areas of the city.

Michael Pierce: Well he could do a little bit. I mean, if he wants to get that gateway, you know, like you said it's excessive. He gets, you know, say 40 trees set alongside there. You know what I mean? That's a good amount to do a start. And then if he wants additional in there, you can always do so but then also have the residential. I mean, I think it can work both ways.

Rianne Hawkins: Oh yeah. I wasn't insinuating either or just more of the trees go into residential as opposed to the Parkway, but still do both. Let me clarify. I'm sorry.

Susan Allen: And the 145 trees are wonderful. So Jeff if you could thank the mayor, you know, if we were doing 70 and all of a sudden he said 145, that's great.

Randy Belville: So director, would you be comfortable asking the mayor to maybe dedicate like a third of that number to the entryway and two thirds to other locations?

Nate Bottom: Yeah, we can talk to him about it, sounds reasonable.

Rianne Hawkins: I'll make a motion that we adopt your recommendation.

Randy Belville: I think we're gonna have to balance something there and give him some sort of recommendation if we could. And I know that he's got a priority that's greater than you know, than that. But if we could even compromise and make a suggestion that one third of those trees are reserved for gateway and two thirds for residential I think is at least a compromise. So I make a motion.

Ernestine Lawrence: I second.

Jan Von Qualen: Any more discussion?

Jan Von Qualen: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Opposed?

Susan Allen: Jeff, you were going to bring us any permits to take down trees, weren't you, that individuals were pending?

Jeff Reim: Yes, and I haven't received any. But I certainly will keep you all informed on that.

Randy Belville: Jeff, would you just catch us up real quickly, again? You may have said this but I can't remember. What is happening around that church? I had two more people ask me again this week, what's going on around the church?

Jeff Reim: The guy who runs the entire facility around the church. He said that they're doing a complete overhaul on the outside of it, which includes beautiful landscaping trees all around the building. They also had a bunch of complaints and they had people fall going into church on the Sweetgums. With that being said, he wanted them removed, but he also said that they would put in thousands of dollars worth of landscaping and trees to make up for the Sweetgums being removed.

Randy Belville: I just want to verify though, for clarification, thousands of dollars of landscaping could be, you know things on their property. I'm talking about the things that actually, people are pissed because those trees got cut down between the sidewalk and the curb and it's barren. And I just want you to assure us that there's something going back in there.

Jeff Reim: I promise you there's going to be trees going back in the Parkway.

Randy Belville: That's what I needed to hear. Cause that's what I'm going to tell them. Cause, I mean I got people pissed off enough knocking and wanting to know on walks that they want to come to city council. And I'm like guys, I think there's a plan.

Jeff Reim: Well if they're mad about that...

Jan Von Qualen: He was going to talk with you about what they're going to be, right? And bring them to us.

Jeff Reim: He is, yeah, he's going to give me the plan and I'll give it to everyone here. The other thing people need to realize is if we implement that Sweetgum program, there's going to be a lot more coming down. And you're talking with Sweetgums, there's almost just as many Sweetgums as there are Ash trees in the city.

Susan Allen: Jeff, is that something we can provide input on? I know Jan has said, you know, maybe there's another way that the Sweetgum fruit could be taken care of that, you know, the city hasn't already made the commitment to take down all the remaining Sweetgums. Have they?

Jeff Reim: No. And that was last discussion. We really can wait until next time to put it on the agenda and talk about it cause we won't be doing anything this year with the Sweetgum program.

Randy Belville: Are there lines above that, over there? Do you know, on that church?

John Davis: I'm not sure what church we're referring to.

Randy Belville: It's right off of Walnut. What is it, Jeff? Uh, Westminster. They just, they took everything out.

Jeff Reim: They took about, I think there was, I think like six sweet gums out of that.

Speaker 4: Yeah, they took the Sweetgums off of the Edwards side. They're gone from corner to corner and then all the way along the front of their building along Walnut from Edwards all the way down past their parking lot. And so, I mean it's just stark and barren. It's kind of like that thing over there at the Springfield clinic. I mean it's just gone.

John Davis: I can't picture any lines in that location, but I'll have to go back and look.

Randy Belville: With that permit process coming up, why plant something there that has to be...

Susan Allen: It didn't look like there's any lines there and that wasn't the reason for removing them. Didn't you say Jeff it was landscaping?

Jeff Reim: Correct. And I don't think there's any lines either over in that area. So options are, you know, unlimited on what can be put there. We can put some big trees in.

Randy Belville: Okay.

Randy Belville: And the other thing is all taken care of too, right? You said that the clinic, did they fix their thing?

Jeff Reim: I haven't heard anything. Director, have you heard anything back from Springfield Clinic on that?

Nate Bottom: They'll be submitting plans in regards to the tree replacement here shortly. So I'll reach out to Tom Fitch.

Randy Belville: Thank you.

Nate Bottom: Moving forward we'll just go ahead and have them include the replacement plan before we issue the permit. May not be a bad idea.

Jan Von Qualen: That's a good idea.

Jeff Reim: That is perfect.

Jan Von Qualen: I still see Boulevard tree watering ideas. Did we want to discuss that tonight or shall we put that off until next month?

Jeff Reim: That is a long discussion. It is important but that's up to you guys.

Jan Von Qualen: Maybe, is there any background information you could give us on it so that in the next four weeks we could be thinking about it?

Jeff Reim: I can send out an email on it. Sure.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay.

Jeff Reim: And then that way by the next time we meet...My big thing is after we leave here and then I'll get with the director, but we're gonna put out an RFP right away for the fall tree replacement.

Jan Von Qualen: It sounds like a good priority. Is there anything else to discuss this evening?

Randy Belville: The time and date of our next meeting is?

Nate Bottom: November the 13th at 5:00 PM and it will be here in the council chambers.

Randy Belville: We have anything we want to add to the agenda? Can we forward that to you?

Nate Bottom: All three of us.

Jan Von Qualen: Alright. And I had mentioned that I had put together those rules and procedures so maybe we could send those around so that people can have a chance to look.

I'm sure there's inaccuracies, typos and other things that maybe need to be in there. We could talk about them next month.

Amy McEuen: Yeah. Jeff actually emailed that to me and I made a couple of little edits. I'll email that to you.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay.

Jan Von Qualen: If there's nothing else, is there a motion to adjourn?

Rianne Hawkins: I'll motion.

Jan Von Qualen: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Opposed? We are adjourned.