

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Urban Forestry Commission met on November 13, 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 Qualen	(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 Von Qualen called the meeting to order.

Roll Call.

Minutes from October 9, 2019 were approved with a Motion from Commissioner Hawkins
Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawrence
Motion carries 7/0/0

Jan Von Qualen:

This evening we are going to first recognize Sustainable Springfield Inc and Anne Logue. Sustainable Springfield Inc is a local organization created to promote and inspire sustainable solutions by our local governments, the business community and Springfield area citizens. Sustainable Springfield Inc coordinated with the city and planted two red Maples, two Redbuds and two Autumn Serviceberries on a patch of city owned property along Clear Lake in October. Sustainable Springfield plans to include a protected pollinator habitat there and butterfly planning along the tree line. Tonight we would like to recognize Sustainable Springfield Inc and Anne Logue, the treasurer and past president, as a Springfield tree advocate and partner in tree planting and in recognition of their commitment to the Springfield tree canopy. Anne, if you'd come forward.

Anne Logue:

Why we chose Clear Lake Ave was because it's the first thing that you see when you come into town and it does exude kind of a feeling of sadness. And the first impression that the city gives is very important and it sets the tone. So when you're coming in, when I come into a city and I'm looking at things that are, are reflecting, it affects me. And what Sustainable Springfield wants to do is to instill a sense of integrity and demonstrate that we have educated, concerned citizens. And by using this as a demo area, we can demonstrate a support of the urban tree canopy project, pollination and actually on CNN today, it tells us to go out and address our city council to ask them to plant more native trees and wild flowers, pollinators. So I'd like to use this demo because you can't just approach...like I would like to approach Henson Robinson. They've got that really bad piece of property right next to the overpass. And for \$1,600 you put in six trees. And I know that native plant society is working with us and we can probably count on support for the pollination plants, but if not, I've got people who are willing to donate that, Blackberry bushes for the people who concerned about food scarcity and on the East side, that is an issue. And they take care of themselves and they're also part of soil carbon sequestration. They're sort of like adjuncts to trees. It's another process where you can store carbon (inaudible). So the primary issue is to get our tree cover up the 30% and to do this we'll need to be able to assess it on an annual basis. And cities (inaudible) with some very updated current technology, so Sustainable Springfield has been helping with that but the idea is not for Sustainable Springfield to plant the trees but to set up a foundation where the city can just run with it and we're hoping that that is getting better and better. And you can see throughout the city, Jeff has done a lot of work on that and there's a lot of trees, there's a lot of landscaping, there's a lot of green structure that wasn't there before. We are grateful for that. We're also very grateful for the property that was given to us. As far as the larger trees, that would be great for neighborhood properties. I know you guys are really interested in neighborhoods but then the smaller trees like Redbuds and the Autumn Serviceberries go very low because that's part of the (inaudible). That would be a good street tree if you guys are interested in that along with the pollinator plants. It took \$16,000 for that Yerba trees. But that's (inaudible). So any questions?

Jan Von Qualen:

We were talking about the possibility of people donating money to plant trees. Is that how Sustainable Springfield gets their money for trees or?

Anne Logue: It's all donation. It's been going on forever I mean, you guys have been listening to me and the good thing about Clear Lake is that it's now city property, right? It's incorporated?

Nate Bottom: No, we transferred it back to the state.

Anne Logue: Are you kidding me? Okay. Well then never mind about that. But anyway, yes, we do take donations and we're, you know, we can work with the state, but there's a lot of, there'll be private property owners on Clear Lake or in neighborhoods that we could do this combination pollinator tree project. We also want to support the butterfly population as well, you know, who wants to lose the monarchs? Right? Anytime that you want to donate we would be happy to have your money.

Randy Belville: If someone donated to Sustainable Springfield for let's say to plant a tree and then they would plant it on city property. Is that how it would go?

Nate Bottom: That's one way that it can be done. You just need to get a tree permit from Jeff, the arborist, from Jeff Reim. If you're going to plant it on state right-of-way, you'd need to get a permit from IDOT and that would be Mike Staab that you would work with there.

Anne Logue: I've talked to them. So either way, I mean I really would like to get Clear Lake cleaned up. I mean the main point is is to increase the tree canopy to 30% and that's what Sustainable Springfield wants more than anything because this is a climate issue. Please do look at the materials because there's a heat Island factor that is important for the city and lowering the temperature in this city is very important in terms of water and drought and trees. So as our population has gone up, so has the carbon emissions and so has the temperature. It's not a straight line but it goes up consistently. You know, you've had in the last 50 years an explosion in our population, our temperature and our carbon emissions. So please consider using trees. We just, you know, people are planting trees everywhere and we want to support that. So that's it. Thank you.

Jan Von Qualen: Thank you Anne and thanks again for coming tonight and for your work on Clear Lake and your work with us in the future, we hope.

Jan Von Qualen: The next item we have on the agenda is how to water trees for the fall tree planting. Jeff did you want to address that?

Jeff Reim: That's what I kind of wanted input from everyone on how we should do this. I believe this Thursday is when we can open the envelopes for whatever bids we got for the trees for this year. So with that being said, it'd be nice to get some input from you guys on how we should go about with the maintenance of watering these. If anyone has any input, that'd be great. I mean, we're talking probably up to 200 trees, but probably 145 to 150 or something like that.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. You've watered trees after you planted them in the past. So kind of give us a little history or what works, what doesn't work, what your concerns are.

Jeff Reim: We have just not that many, not near as close to 200, more like 50 to 55 trees and we've done those with watering bags which need to be filled once a week. So when you get to 200 trees, you're talking about, you know bags plus than someone having to go around and put water in them once a week.

Michael Pierce: Hey Jeff is there a water truck that goes?

Jeff Reim: We have one. One guy.

Michael Pierce: This frost and cold definitely isn't helping, that's for sure. I've put in like 40 trees already in it's, yeah, you got to keep the water to him.

Jan Von Qualen: Do you have any other suggestion then? We have one water truck and you would need a lot of bags to water them.

Jeff Reim: More manpower, more people.

Jan Von Qualen: More money in our budget.

Nate Bottom: I'll be asking for that, for an additional foreman and basically creating an essence of a beautification crew, an urban forestry crew. Basically, with one foreman and two TDL's is what we're going to request.

Jeff Reim: An extra truck with the watering on the back would be great.

Jan Von Qualen: Nate, you say you're going to request that. Is that going to be part of the urban forestry budget and is there a dollar amount you're going to request for it?

Nate Bottom: Right. I think that's what we're getting to. I'm not sure if it'll be paid out of that or the garage fund and I don't know if we'll get the people either. It's a tough decision, I'll put in some new initiatives and that's one of the new initiatives that we'll put into the budget and there'll be up to the city council to decide as well as the various items that we need to talk about with what we should request for the first year budget for the urban forestry plan.

Jan Von Qualen: Would it be helpful for the urban forestry commission to make a motion about your new tree crew?

Nate Bottom: That would be a good idea.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. Is there any discussion about that?

Rianne Hawkins: I make a motion that we support the initiative to create a urban forestry maintenance tree crew, beautification crew, whatever name you land on to help keep these trees alive and healthy and keep our core mission going.

Jan Von Qualen: Rianne Hawkins made a motion to support Nate's request for an urban forestry street crew and to help water the trees and maintain our beautification projects. Is there a second?

Michael Pierce: Second.

Jan Von Qualen: Seconded by Mike Pierce. Is there any more discussion?

Jan Von Qualen: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: The motion passes.

Susan Allen: I think we still are on the topic of watering the trees or shall we move on to another topic? Do we need to do something substantive tonight about that?

Nate Bottom: So for the time being, I guess what we'll do is we'll have to talk to the operations coordinator at the garage and see if we can pull a couple people during the week. I don't know how much you water during the winter.

Jeff Reim: During the winter. I planted over 50 trees last December and didn't water them or anything. The snow and rain and all that took care of that. And then luckily the spring time we just had a massive amount of rain so that really helped them out. So you know, and it's my opinion that when we do plant here probably in December, I think there'll be okay till the beginning of March and then we're going to have to figure something out. But obviously we do that beforehand, but now's a fantastic time to plant trees.

Jan Von Qualen: Provided we have a wet winter. Wasn't the winter before so dry that it was really dangerous?

Jan Von Qualen: No one remembers? I remember, it was.

Jan Von Qualen: So we can bring that up again maybe after we have a budget and we know what we'll have to work with.

Randy Belville: How many bags do you have now? You said 50 bags, you think you have?

Jeff Reim: We have about 37 water bags.

Randy Belville: And what's the cost of those?

Jeff Reim: I don't know. We have a guy that orders all of our stuff for us, so I can ask him, but I'm not quite sure what the cost per bag is. I think we get them for a pretty good price because we get them in a bundle.

Nate Bottom: How many do we need approximately?

Jeff Reim: At least 150. Which, you know, really is a fantastic idea. I mean, if I even had another guy with a truck that could haul water, two guys could do it. Cause then I could have one guy, that would be his job, you know, once a week to just go around and fill 'em up.

Nate Bottom: Do we want to budget for 200 water bags then and put that into the budget that we'll propose?

Randy Belville: Yeah, because they're like \$12 a bag, I believe. But you guys may get a better deal than that. One per tree, I mean you're talking 1200 bucks or so. So I think you guys need to leave some room for that. I don't see how somebody, I don't see how one crew's going to get 200 trees a week watered with one person. I mean not once you get into June and July, you know that's a stressful period of time. And then you've also got all this other downtown 250 planners and beds and things like that. I just want to make sure you got your bases covered with that, but even at that, that's a lot of watering. You're talking one additional crew to water plus the one that you already have. Is that right? That's what you're going to ask for?

Nate Bottom: We're going to ask for a specific crew to set it up. We don't really have a crew right now to tell you the truth, we have one person.

Randy Belville: So the one that you have from the summer, is that just a reassignment then?

Nate Bottom: Correct.

Randy Belville: Okay, so that's a reassignment.

Nate Bottom: Also, during the summer we have summer help.

Randy Belville: Right. I know you get those high school boys occasionally, but not all...

Jeff Reim: Yeah, problem with the high school kids is they come in late summer too. I think we got 'em maybe late June or something.

Nate Bottom: Our goal is to get them earlier next year, mid-May when they're getting out of school.

Randy Belville: I know at St John's this year we worked with them really hard to put a 500 gallon tank in the back of a truck that we could slide in and out on a sled with a Honda engine for a pump. I mean, it just made a huge difference in the amount

of watering that they could get done and the amount of time that they could do it with the assistance of that pump, you have two people on that. At the same time watering with a hundred 150 foot hose that they could drag out and get around there. But I think it's one thing to do that in June, July and August. But it's another thing when you're having somebody that can hit these things year round. I mean, if you're going to have an investment, you guys have 200 trees a year or whatever, somebody's got to take care of those. And that's manpower that may reduce the number of trees that we can buy or whatever, depending on how much money we ask for.

Susan Allen: You said 500 trees, didn't you Nate?

Nate Bottom: Yeah. And then ultimately we want to do 500 trees a year, so we need to come up with a program. We're not going to be able to necessarily maintain them. So what do we do? Adopt a tree or you know, basically some type of a contract with homeowners that will maintain them in front of their house or something along those lines. Those are things we need to think of.

Randy Belville: Can we engage in neighborhood associations or something like that to help with the assignment administration of that?

Jeff Reim: You know a couple of years ago this came up and what was thought about was, well, let's offer to plant them in people's front yard. That way the resident is responsible for the maintenance and the water of them. So that took that whole big obstacle off our back. But certainly we want them in the parkway because it makes for a better canopy for the streets.

Randy Belville: Well, there was something in that email that you had sent about the program that Elena out at Starhill. But Elena had sent us and there were some conditions, like if you adopt this tree or whatever, or you ask for this tree or there were some parameters that were set there and how to maintain it and what your requirement was. I think at least for the first year, wasn't that in that email that you had sent us?

Jan Von Qualen: I don't recall, Susan?

Susan Allen: It's possible. I could pull it up.

Jan Von Qualen: If we did something like that. Then it would be a matter of contacting maybe the homeowners and saying, do you want a tree planted in your parkway? And if you do, are you willing to water? How much do you want a tree?

Nate Bottom: And maybe we can put on on the website where there's an application for them to adopt a tree.

Jan Von Qualen: That would be a good way to do it. Once we got the word out about that.

Nate Bottom: And we could do a neighborhood news blast attaching that and announcing that through the communications director.

Susan Allen: Did it say something about 10 gallons to five gallon buckets of water per week would help each young tree survive? And one idea was the high school students in this town, Highland park high school students volunteering to assist.

Jan Von Qualen: So putting it on our website, is that something we need to like create a form and then vote on putting it on or can we just discuss it and then public works will put it on? What would we need to do to actually get something put on our website?

Nate Bottom: We'll need to work with the communications director, develop the application. If somebody has a form or did they have an application form, Highland Park? Is that who you mentioned?

Susan Allen: It's possible that they do, I don't know. It doesn't say here, but...

Randy Belville: Yeah, I think they did when I, when I looked at it the rest of the way and followed it through, I believe there was an application that was administered on the city website and then the city then administered the permit for that. And whether they had I think three different trees, whether it was like, what was it, a shrub, a shade tree. And then there was a smaller like the serviceberries or redbuds, things like that, that consideration of utilities and stuff because we want to make sure that you're not...

Nate Bottom: Right and we want to put it out at the right time too. I think it now may just be a little too early.

Randy Belville: Right, because wouldn't this be for next year's fall tree planting?

Nate Bottom: Correct.

Randy Belville: So you're talking...

Jan Von Qualen: Maybe in the spring, late summer, late spring, early summer.

Rianne Hawkins: Susan, this is Highland Park, Illinois?

Susan Allen: Yes.

Rianne Hawkins: I happen to know the mayor of Highland park. I can give her a call and see if she can either put me in charge with their public works department and maybe they can give us the whole package of what they used.

Nate Bottom: We can maybe just find it online too.

Rianne Hawkins: Okay.

Susan Allen: Nate, I sent it to you and Jeff, just if that's helpful, what Elena sent. And Randy, she sent that to you and me? Should I send that to you Jan and then everybody would have it?

Jan Von Qualen: Or you can send it to everybody if you have everybody's email.

Susan Allen: Do I have everybody's email?

Jan Von Qualen: You should cause I've sent things to everyone and so has Jeff.

Susan Allen: Okay.

Nate Bottom: We just need to make sure that we're following the open meetings act whenever sharing any information and not discussing it in any emails, just as a reminder.

Jan Von Qualen: Right.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there anything else to talk about as far as the watering the trees then for the fall planting? We have that covered? Jeff, do you feel comfortable now? I mean we haven't done anything for it except you saying you may not need to water them this fall and we're going to ask for additional budget for another crew and some budget for some bags for the trees.

Jeff Reim: Additional budget for crews and bags will help out a lot. I think that'd be the best answer.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. Randy, did you want to make a motion about asking Nate to include in the budget money for at least another 150 tree bags?

Randy Belville: We actually have a motion on the floor, but I could amend that motion.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay.

Randy Belville: I'll ask for an amendment that we include funding for an additional 150 bags and the crew members as outlined by the director.

Rianne Hawkins: I'll second that amendment to my motion.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. Amendment is made by Randy Bellville. The second is by Riane Hawkins. Any more discussion?

Jan Von Qualen: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Opposed? The motion has carried.

Jan Von Qualen: With that, I think that brings a kind of a continuation of the discussion we had. But the next thing on the agenda is the budget for the arborist and the forestry projects. Some of that we've just talked about, the watering the trees issue, other things we've talked about in prior meetings were the tree survey, free purchases and planting arbor day activities. We've talked about some cost-cutting ideas as far as the tree planting goes.

Jan Von Qualen: Nate, have you prepared the request for budget for us in total or you were kind of looking for some guidance from us?

Nate Bottom: I'm looking for guidance. I don't know how elaborate we want to go with the tree survey, how much we want to put in for that. If we wanna go ahead and do the full blown budget with, you know, putting the RFP out and requesting somebody to do all the data collection or if we do it over a certain time period. Do it in house or do it with volunteers?

Susan Allen: Nate, could you tell us what the tree budget is currently?

Nate Bottom: We don't have one.

Susan Allen: Well, I know I'd seen a freedom information act request about the tree budget for Springfield and they had, it was the equivalent of \$200,000 and mostly it was for, there was a lot of money devoted to taking down trees. So there is some money earmarked for that. What's the kind of \$200,000 figure?

Nate Bottom: That was just the labor, materials and equipment. Just for our tree crews.

Susan Allen: You're saying there is...

Nate Bottom: We have a forestry crew this time that does a lot of the tree maintenance, tree trimming, removal of the Ash trees, the removal of the stumps and grinding. That's the number I believe we're referring to.

Susan Allen: There was obviously some trees planted during that period. Right? So there was some money for that. Was there?

Nate Bottom: Jeff, How much did you have budgeted last year for tree planting?

Jeff Reim: Let me do some math here. Okay.

Nate Bottom: While he's doing that, we need to focus on next year's budget at this time too. So we obviously want to budget for the 500 trees, well I guess we're on the tree survey so let's not get off that yet, sorry. What do we want to budget for that or request? Doing the full blown thing, getting the inventory...?

Rianne Hawkins: I advocate starting big and then we can always compromise from there. That, you know, you may not get the full request, but at least it gives you a starting

place and then we can, you know, obviously you all would handle that negotiation with the council, but I think it would be our preference to do the tree survey.

Jan Von Qualen: Which we think would be about \$100,000, is that what we talked about?

Rianne Hawkins: That's something that would need to go out for bid.

Jan Von Qualen: Right. But we need to kind of arrange to tell the council.

Jan Von Qualen: Anne would like to speak.

Anne Logue: Jeff, remember we talked about working with UIS for a free tree survey process? That's a lot of money to pay for something that we don't really need to pay for. That money could go for tree planting. UIS has GIS technology and they can go on different places for data and they can do a free tree assessment through an intern. A student can do that for free. And I've already got people working on that.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. Could you give us like a contact name or...?

Anne Logue: It's Riley.

Nate Bottom: Riley Potts works for us and...

Anne Logue: That's what I mean...

Nate Bottom: And we have, yes, we have the outline of how we want it set up with the different attributes. However, we need somebody to go out and collect the data, assess the trees and everything along those lines.

Anne Logue: Okay so that's something different then. Okay.

Ernestine Lawrence: I'm not sure of his name but he teaches a class out there in July at UIS...

Amy McEuen: Rick Stokes.

Ernestine Lawrence: So my thinking is that maybe in teaching of his class, he can have students go out and do that type of work as part of their project.

Nate Bottom: I think that would save us a lot of money and that'd be a great idea, if we can get them to do that and try a test period, if they're willing to do that. I mean it's quite an undertaking though too.

Amy McEuen: How many trees are we talking? Like an estimate.

Nate Bottom: 25,000. I'm shooting from the hip there.

Ernestine Lawrence: If they concentrate on a certain area, we know we're not talking about an entire Springfield, just a certain area.

Jeff Reim: Quadrants. I think doing them in quadrants would be best.

Ernestine Lawrence: Yeah, that's what I'm thinking.

Jeff Reim: And we spent almost \$20,000 on trees last year.

Jan Von Qualen: Amy, do you have any input about...?

Amy McEuen: It's a lot of work. If you look at the tree plan from Urbana-Champaign that the professional folks come in and do, and they're trained to do it very consistently. It would be time and cost to the university as well as, that doesn't mean that we couldn't pull something together, but I don't know if it's something that could be done for free. Right? I mean there's materials involved, there's having people understand the ID assessing tree health. There is a lot of data in those plans that we looked at. So that doesn't mean that the university folks there couldn't potentially pull together something if there was an RFP to propose something. But I don't know. I guess if it's an option, but I'm not sure that it's something that could be done really easily, I guess is what I'm trying to say.

Jan Von Qualen: I would be concerned about the amount of information we got on tree health and size and diversity and things. I mean there's a lot of specialized knowledge involved. Would there be any way to maybe pull something together that would make it easier for whoever we hired to do the tree survey. Like Anne was talking about the GIS program. Is that something that would work in with our tree survey? Nate?

Nate Bottom: Yes, definitely. It depends upon the option and how we can integrate the data. But we were planning on having the various GIS assets. I mean, whoever the professional is is going to have all the various attributes. So I'm sure there's a way that we could migrate the data into GIS one way or the other, whether they have their specialized software or whether they just do the data entry into GIS with the collector app.

Jan Von Qualen: So Rianne has suggested that we should ask for funding to do the tree survey in total. I think that's a good idea with the understanding to make clear to the council that if we couldn't get all of the money we want, we would like to get some of the money for a quadrant of the city or some identified portion of the city so that we could begin.

Nate Bottom: And I think we can fashion the RFP that way where you can do it for full-blown city wide or just starting in quadrants and maybe get a discount if you do it all up front.

Rianne Hawkins: Yeah. And I think it's important. We have to know where we are so we know where we need to be. Right? So we can't make adequate plans and you all at the city can't make adequate plans on what needs to be done in terms of tree health and what needs to be planted and where they're going to be problem spots 10 to 15 years from now. So you can make those plans without us knowing how everything looks right now.

Jan Von Qualen: Meaning we need the survey.

Rianne Hawkins: That would be my argument for it. Yes.

Jan Von Qualen: So Nate, is that what we leave at? We do a motion and ask for the budget for a survey or do we need to put a dollar figure in there because it seems like we would?

Nate Bottom: Yeah, I think we'd put in \$100,000 for the tree inventory survey. It's a budget estimate.

Jan Von Qualen: Randy, did you have anything to say?

Randy Belville: No, I mean this is our third meeting and we've hashed this, you know, every single time now that we need this survey to tell us where we're going. And I think we just need to put an RFP out and see what the doggone thing is going to cost us and then come back and chew on it and then make a motion after that to send it over to the council.

Jan Von Qualen: So what would be the process for creating the RFP? I mean, who would create the RFP? Do we need to do something for that?

Randy Belville: The RFP would be similar to like what Jeff does for fall tree planting or anything like that. You know, you just...

Nate Bottom: We'll work on it with our construction engineer who serves on the specifications committee and put it out.

Susan Allen: Jan, this wouldn't interfere with the 500 trees that the mayor said we're going to plant in the next year?

Nate Bottom: I can't predict what, without knowing what the budget is and how much they allocate. It could.

Susan Allen: I think it's important that we say that planting trees is a priority as well. And that's something that definitely the community is interested in, tree planting. So, I would think just throwing this out in discussion, if we had to scale back and do the quadrant of the tree survey and did that professionally, but at the same time plant the 500 trees, I think the 500 trees is a wonderful goal and it'd be too

bad to retreat from that to have the full blown survey if we could kind of do it in parts.

Nate Bottom: Yeah, let's go ahead and I think that will probably be best to propose the tree inventory survey, I guess the entire survey as well as the 500 trees and we can see what we get.

Randy Belville: I agree.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. So we've had a motion that we're supporting Nate in his request for a new urban forestry street crew and getting at least 150 new tree bags. Do we want to have a motion then to say that the Urban Forestry Commission is requesting in the budget approximately a hundred thousand dollars for a tree inventory survey and that we would like Public Works to begin to work on an RFP for that? I'll make the motion.

Ernestine Lawrence: I second.

Susan Allen: Jan, could we put the 500 trees in there or do that separate?

Jan Von Qualen: I think we'll talk about tree planting next.

Jan Von Qualen: Ernestine Lawrence seconded. Is there any discussion?

Jan Von Qualen: All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. That covers the budget for the tree survey. Next is tree planting. Susan.

Susan Allen: I thought the 500 trees was a wonderful goal. And then I even thought if we could get, you know, corporate Springfield to plant 500 more if we could have a thousand trees next year or the following year, but 500 is a wonderful round amount of trees. And you said yourself, Nate, that you're taking down 500 trees so it really makes sense to put up 500 trees and probably the trees you're taking down are the old trees that really have so much value to them and we're putting up the young trees but we really need to replace the trees you're taking down.

Jan Von Qualen: With our discussion about tree planting. A couple of our previous meetings, we talked about the size of the trees and I think this year we decided to go with the one and a half inch trees. But did we want to discuss some diversification of the trees that we're going to plant next year? Should we wait until next year when we're actually going to put out the RFP for them?

Nate Bottom: I think that's more fitting.

Jan Von Qualen: So do we need a dollar amount to propose for the 500 trees?

Randy Belville: I think it's kind of like putting the cart before the horses in a way until we see what the budget, what council...

Susan Allen: Well, this is what we're asking. We have to ask for something first. Nate needs some ammunition to go in and say, I need this much money and this is why.

Randy Belville: What did the RFP ask for, for the trees for this fall, for the 200 this fall?

Nate Bottom: Whatever the caliper we ended up agreeing to as well as the 11 different trees, right?

Jeff Reim: Yeah. All the trees that you guys approved.

Randy Belville: Did you have a maximum amount that you said in there?

Jeff Reim: Up to 200 trees.

Randy Belville: I mean dollar wise did you...

Jeff Reim: We didn't, we didn't put it in a dollar amount.

Michael Pierce: What's gonna sound like a a hundred and a hundred and some dollars a tree at at an inch and a half or something like that caliper? I thought that was...

Susan Allen: You said something like that. It was something less than \$200 a tree.

Jeff Reim: It depends on the size. Typically, you know you're looking at \$250 to \$275 but I'm going to be looking \$200 or less per tree.

Michael Pierce: Hopefully we can find somewhere where we get the volume amount to reduce the cost of.

Jeff Reim: Absolutely. Yeah, so if you're looking at 500 trees, and I'm just throwing out a number, you're looking at \$150,000 for trees. That's on the high end.

Nate Bottom: It's 100,000. Oh, you're talking \$300? If it's \$200 a tree, it's \$100,000.

Jeff Reim: Say \$200 a tree, then you're looking at \$100,000.

Randy Belville: Maybe I'm too much of a realist here, but I think asking for \$500,000 for tree planting next year is high in the sky kind of thing. I just don't know.

Susan Allen: Now wait a minute, he wasn't talking \$500,000, you were talking about \$100,000.

Nate Bottom: It's \$100,000.

Randy Belville: For how many?

Nate Bottom: For 500 trees. If you have \$200 a tree. 500 trees. That's \$100,000. \$300 a tree, which is obviously high and if you go with the larger caliper...

Randy Belville: That's a three inch caliper and we've talked about scaling that down.

Nate Bottom: The \$100,000 dollars for tree planting is...

Jeff Reim: And realistically a lot of cities, that's what they budget. A \$100,000 for trees a year.

Susan Allen: Jan do you need a motion on that?

Jan Von Qualen: Yes.

Susan Allen: I move that the City of Springfield budget for planting 500 trees next year, if you wanted to put a dollar amount on it, the hundred thousand dollars. Up to \$100,000. Is that fair?

Jan Von Qualen: Any discussion about that or a second?

Jan Von Qualen: I think we should not ask for up to, I think we should ask for \$100,000 and then make it clear that we will...the size of trees that we buy will be kind of dependent upon the amount of money that is given. With that amendment, is there a second?

Randy Belville: What's your amendment?

Jan Von Qualen: That we ask the council for budget to plant 500 trees and we're asking for \$100,000 to plant the trees and the amount of money we get for them is going to affect the size of trees that we buy.

Jan Von Qualen: No seconds?

Randy Belville: I think it's falling flat. I think 500 is locking our feet to the ground. It's something that we just might not be able to do. So maybe asking for a dollar amount and seeing what the amount of trees or the number of trees fits that dollar amount might be a better way to...

Susan Allen: You know, we had the mayor come to the first meeting and our consistent discussion of trees has been...and first he said 70 for this year and that was increased. So that's good. But consistently all the meetings we've talked about 500 trees. So I think it's important to keep it to the number of trees.

Nate Bottom: Yeah. I think just saying budget for \$100,000 when we're estimating we're going to plant 500 trees at this time, it's a budget estimate. It could change depending upon how the numbers come in.

Michael Pierce: I think that's good. \$100,000 for request, and \$100,000 for tree planting. And then I wouldn't put a number on there because again, what kind of price you're going to get. But estimating, put an estimating 500 trees.

Jan Von Qualen: Mike has made a motion that we ask the council for \$100,000 for tree planting. With the understanding we're going to try for 500 trees and it will depend on the budget we get.

Michael Pierce: Right.

Susan Allen: I second.

Jan Von Qualen: Susan Allen has seconded. Is there any discussion, any more discussion? All in favor say aye.

SA, MP, AM, EL,: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Opposed?

Randy Belville: I'm opposed.

Jan Von Qualen: Randy is opposed.

Jan Von Qualen: The other issue we have for budget is our other programs such as our Arbor day event that we're going to have or anything else that the forestry commission is going to plan to do. Does anyone have any thoughts about asking for budget for those types of events or expenses?

Amy McEuen: I don't have a suggestion but I think that as a member it would be nice to see other cities of our size, how they budget and just get some data on that breakdowns of those numbers cause I don't know what that looks like and that might give me some point of reference in terms of what's realistic for cities over the long-term and, and how that breaks down in these different categories.

Ernestine Lawrence: And then two, we are in the process of meeting with District 186 and other schools. So, we will find out at that time what we can do and what we cannot do and go with that and get together on that as a budget. So once they found out limitations, we could go from there.

Randy Belville: Maybe we should offer an update to them with the committee meeting that we held a couple of weeks ago so that they understand where we're coming from on this.

Jan Von Qualen: That's a good idea.

Randy Belville: So then they would understand what these activities are covering and things like that. Susan, could you offer a brief?

Susan Allen: Sure.

Susan Allen: We had a commission meeting of Ernestine, Jan, me, Rianne, Randy and Nate on October 31st planning for Arbor day, which is April 24th, 2020. And we had a really good discussion. Lots of good ideas were brought up. We talked about a school contest, a lot of our discussion concerned that. And as Ernestine said, one of the follow ups is, she and I were going to meet with district 186 to talk about what that contest might look like and maybe that would give us an idea, you know, if there was, what kind of expense there was there. But we also talked about the parochial schools as well. If there was a way to include them and home-schooled children, just any school child in Springfield that wanted to participate in an Arbor day activity. Proclamation, I think we should have a proclamation by the mayor if we're going to be considered for Tree City USA, I think we have to have a proclamation, that's probably not very difficult to do. We talked about tree planting. Randy had a lot of good ideas in that regard. Like where we could get the trees and also he had some suggestions on maybe where we could get some money for some of these trees. One of the ideas was to give school children...whatever school children we involved in the activity, give them a tree to plant or maybe a certificate or something. But we talked about trees and how we could get trees for that event, and if the school children did have the trees, how they would plant them. And we talked about how in Highland Park they included the high school students in planting the trees. So the high school student would work with the school, I don't know what grade school student that would be, in planting that tree. I don't think we talked too much about the day's programming, but we did talk about if we did involve the school children, you know, people always like kids and involve their parents and their grandparents that if we invited those school children, whoever won the contest or participated in the contest to a city council meeting. I know the city council meets on Tuesday and Arbor day's on Friday. But if we could somehow work that and then if we had some poster project, if the younger children worked on a poster that maybe we could have the posters displayed in the library, which is right across the street. And there could be some kind of ceremony there. So as I say, we had a lot of good ideas and there would be some cost associated that particularly with the trees. I know Randy said that there was a way maybe to get less expensive trees. He suggested that we contact...I think it was Edie Sternberg with the native plant society that they might have a grant program that might cover some of these trees. Anybody that was there, what did I overlook?

Jan Von Qualen: I think that covers it.

Nate Bottom: Yeah, I think it does. And I think we need to focus too, and we need to also not get too far outside of the duties and responsibilities of the urban forestry

commission too. So I know we obviously want to do something for Arbor day, but I think we really need to focus on getting the plan together. Getting the Arbor cultural specifications manual, updated, focusing on the five or six tasks too. I think we really need to focus on them so that we can kind of celebrate that and try to get it as far along before Arbor day as possible too. So I know there are a lot of nice things that we want to plan for Arbor day, but I really think we need to focus on getting all of these documents in order. So I did want to just bring that up and make sure we do stay on task too.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. So as far as the budget goes, is there anything else anybody wants to raise about the budget?

Susan Allen: Randy, did you have some idea? I know one suggestion was maybe to...and we'd know more after we meet with District 186, but maybe pick like four schools, one in each quadrant of the city and maybe one specific grade that might have trees in their curriculum, even if it was an art curriculum. And that'd be a way to reduce the cost of the trees. But you had some idea, didn't you Randy?

Randy Belville: I did. If we had 250 participants and if we purchased those as a small 18 count potted tree, we were looking at a cost of \$694. If we went to that Chicago vendor, if we went to like the state nursery where their bare root little seedling saplings, you know, we could probably do that for half that. That sapling order form doesn't even get posted to the website until January. And then I don't think they open up the orders until February, but they do a couple of hundred thousand trees for school children for Arbor day right up there in Mason County in the sapling trees. But that was just the cost of the trees. That was nothing for the poster contest or anything like that would be included.

Jan Von Qualen: So does anyone want to make a motion to add something to what we're requesting from the council? As far as budget goes for that type of activity?

Rianne Hawkins: Let me add something along with that. I was in touch with Edie Sternberg from the native plant society. They obviously do have a grant program. They agree up to a thousand dollars and it's a rolling application. So there's no definite deadline. We could submit the application at any point in time. Two obstacles that we should be aware of though. Number one, the way I described the program, the native plant society hasn't done anything like this before so they don't have experience giving grants to do this kind of program. That doesn't mean necessarily that they'd say no, just that they've never done it before. And number two, they've never given a grant to a unit of government. So I don't know if there's bureaucratic red tape that we would need to work through with that too. However, there is grant funds available that might be able to cover the cost of the trees. So take that into consideration when we're making our budget request.

Randy Belville: And I might add that there's also grant funds available through DNR as well with the tree surveys. I mean they give out money every year for tree surveys throughout the state.

Susan Allen: This might be a little far flung, but the American Forestry Magazine said Eddie Bauer has worked with urban forest commissions in Illinois, in suburbs of Chicago to grant tree planting. So Eddie Bauer has plenty of money.

Jan Von Qualen: So what I'm hearing is that people are thinking, don't put any money in the budget for this type of thing. We'll try to go for grants?

Nate Bottom: What's the cost?

Randy Belville: Most grants have a matching fund. I mean, you have to match so much. I know in the grants that we've talked about with Illinois Native Plant Society, they're going to have a matching grant. I would think that you would see no more than a \$2,000 expenditure this first year that would allow you to do \$1,000 grant or up to a thousand dollar grant and then matching funds of up to a \$1,000. I mean, that's pretty low.

Jan Von Qualen: Is that a motion?

Randy Belville: That could be a motion.

Randy Belville: To include not up to \$1,000 in the budget, I guess. Two thousand dollars in the budget. \$2,000 on the budget for this next year for Arbor Day activities.

Rianne Hawkins: It would be \$1,000 and we'd get a grant to match it. So we'd only have to request \$1,000.

Nate Bottom: I'd put \$2,000 in because that's going to be the expenditure and then the thousand dollars would be plugged into our revenue line for budgeting purposes.

Rianne Hawkins: Okay.

Nate Bottom: Then if we don't get it, we don't get it.

Jan Von Qualen: Randy Belville has made a motion that we ask for \$2,000 for money for Arbor Day activities. Is there a second?

Rianne Hawkins: I'll second it.

Jan Von Qualen: Seconded by Rianne Hawkins. Is there any more discussion? All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Opposed? Motion carries.

Jan Von Qualen: I think that's all we need to talk about as far as budget. Does anybody else have anything about budget suggestions that we need to ask to council for budget?

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. The next thing on the agenda is the review of the rules and procedures. I sent people a copy of a version that I made that was pretty much copied off of the City of Urbana's rules and procedures. I made a couple of changes there, which I wanted to talk to people about or make sure they were aware of. One thing is the vice chair will conduct the meetings in the absence of the chair and then Urbana had somebody called a recording secretary and I nominated our arborist Jeff to be our recording secretary. I put in there the recording secretary shall be the arborist or designee unless the majority of the commission votes in favor of an alternative. I'm thinking that Jeff, you've been the person making sure we have the minutes kept and you've been posting the notices and that's what the recording secretary in this rules and procedures does. The other thing I, that was in their rules and procedures that I had a question about was they included in their agenda an approval of the agenda. I'm not sure that's necessary. That would be another item on our agenda, like approval of the minutes and then approval of this agenda. Not sure I really see a point to it and it would take time, but I thought in case somebody thought there was a reason to do it, I put it in there and see if anybody had any thoughts about it.

Nate Bottom: This is going to need to be reviewed by our legal department before we make a motion or approve anything.

Jan Von Qualen: But we can at least discuss if we need any other changes.

Nate Bottom: Yeah, that's fine.

Jan Von Qualen: I put in here as far as the regular meetings would be held at the council chambers because I think that's what we discussed before or the Public Works conference room. I put in that commissioners may participate or vote by telephone if a majority of the commissioners vote to allow such participation. I don't know how people feel about that, sometimes I've been in meetings where people did participate by telephone and sometimes there's good reason for someone participating by telephone. So that's something for people to think about if they want to allow that or not.

Amy McEuen: I have a question on that. Do we have the ability to do like Skype or anything here or would it be phone?

Nate Bottom: I've never seen it done in Skype just called in before.

Amy McEuen: Okay.

Jan Von Qualen: The other provision in the Urbana rules I had questions about was...they have a provision for suspension, which says that any rule of procedure not required by law may be suspended temporarily at any meeting by majority vote of the commissioners present and voting. In other words, by majority vote we could suspend any of our rules of procedure, which seems...I don't know why they put

that in there and I don't know if anybody would be comfortable having that or thinks it's necessary.

Rianne Hawkins: I think I'd like to get the opinion of legal. I see some red flags, but legal would clearly be the expert.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay. Yeah.

Rianne Hawkins: Overall great work though. Thank you for pulling it together.

Jan Von Qualen: Next item on the agenda is the Springfield Urban Forestry Plan, a timeline, goals and responsibilities. And as Nate was saying, that is our primary function here is to look at the city ordinances regarding urban forestry and look at the arbor-cultural manual or make a plan forestry plan. What do we want to do about, you know, making a plan to make the plan, setting a schedule for it.

Rianne Hawkins: Well, I mean I think we've kind of already touched on this about the need to do a tree survey. I think that's the first step with the urban forestry plan. So I think we need to, you know, can develop more of a plan when we know if it's going to be a full city tree survey, if it's just going to be a quadrant, which is obviously a budget decision that's going to need to be made by the council. And then, you know, obviously we'll rely on experts that know the city's capacity and, and all that kind of stuff to develop the actual plan itself. Are you looking for this commission to kind of give just general policies around it or what kind of guidance are you looking for from us?

Nate Bottom: Depends how detailed the plan is going to be. How many pages?

Randy Belville: Didn't you guys believe that that plan was going to be developed based on the information we got back from, from the survey?

Amy McEuen: Yes, absolutely. And I think one thing about having it on the agenda is just to kind of keep it kind of front and center. And also I'm still not clear on like exactly what everyone's roles and responsibilities will be with regards to like who writes the actual plan and do we oversee it or those types of things. So I thought it would be worthwhile to have a discussion on that. Like just cause I'm not clear on that.

Randy Belville: Well I don't think it's fair to ask the chair to write that. I mean I think it needs to be done maybe in a subcommittee and then brought back for refinement and refinement, refinement. I mean it's something I think that's going to have to be kind of a living thing for a few months until it's fully adopted. I don't see us just sitting down and writing one here in a two or three hour meeting. I don't think you do either, but don't you think it's going to have to be sent out to a small subcommittee or something?

Amy McEuen: That was kind of my question. Is that what we see as the model? I mean, I don't know what other people were thinking would be the process for that. So that's partly why I wanted it on the agenda.

Susan Allen: I was thinking it would be between the meetings, definitely not something that's discussed at this meeting. We wouldn't have time to kind of develop the whole plan at this meeting and maybe there's people that have a particular interest in working on that.

Nate Bottom: I agree and then, I don't know how we do it, if it's by chapter or you know, we adopt a few chapters every few meetings and say "Hey, we're done with this section." I don't know...

Randy Belville: Are you under any charge to get this done by any timeline? I mean has the mayor charged us with anything or?

Nate Bottom: I don't have a specific timeline and I don't know. It depends on how detailed we want it. I mean you can do a simple urban forestry plan that only has a few, you know, 10 to 13 pages or you can do a full blown one that's going to take a lot longer. It depends.

Randy Belville: Well, I think the reason for even doing this though was that we can't actually apply for Tree City USA until we have this plan in place and adopted.

Speaker 9: So just take that into consideration. I'm not trying to throw another, you know, bump in the road here, but I don't know when you plan to apply for that. And then I don't know if we set some sort of a goal or a guideline or timeframe as to when you're going to do that application. And do you want this done before then or...?

Rianne Hawkins: Or would you like us to set that goal?

Nate Bottom: We can talk about it and see. See how long it's going to take us. We can make it in March, March one or something along those lines. Or do we need to do it earlier than that?

Randy Belville: I've seen some of these plans are 60 pages long, like in Schaumburg, you know, or what was Urbana's?

Jeff Reim: Some are a hundred, over a hundred pages. Very detailed.

Jan Von Qualen: We could put one in place and then make amendments to it as we become more specific and know certain things. I think if anybody looked at that arborcultural manual, it has a lot of things in there as far as giving our arborist direction into permitting and things like that. We could work on that now. And you know, as we find out what the survey tells us, we can change things and make things align with the facts.

Rianne Hawkins: So how about this? For our plan, we set a goal of the city applying to be a Tree City USA since that's a goal that we all share by 2021, that gives us all next year to get the survey done and write the plan. In the meantime, Jeff, if you can bring to us from the specifications manual about tree planting in the city as it exists right now, bring to us the list of some improvements that you'd like to see made, some changes. You know, you're the one that deals with this on a day to day basis, you know, it's working and what's not working and then we can make decisions at least on that portion of it while we're waiting for the budget process, the tree canopy survey and what's going to come out of there. Does that sound like a acceptable plan and goals? And I think it's a realistic timeline too.

Randy Belville: I do too.

Rianne Hawkins: I mean we don't need to have everything done by June one. I think giving us a year to get kind of everything up and off the ground makes a lot of sense.

Jan Von Qualen: And what was the date that you...?

Rianne Hawkins: January of 2021 so it gives the entire calendar year of 2020 to do the background research and then give Jeff time to develop the future plan. And in the meantime we can look at the tree permitting process, the handbook, all that stuff.

Jan Von Qualen: And that would be to apply for Tree City USA?

Jan Von Qualen: Yeah.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay, is that a motion?

Rianne Hawkins: That's a motion.

Randy Belville: Okay. Rianne has made a motion that we put it a timeline of January 2021 in order to spend the time from now until then to do background work on our specifications manual. Have Jeff bring his changes that he suggests to the manual as far as things that he has found that works or does not work. And regarding the tree permitting and other things in the specifications manual all by January 2021. Does that correctly state your motion?

Rianne Hawkins: It does, yes. Thank you.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there a second?

Randy Belville: I would second that.

Jan Von Qualen: Seconded by Randy Belville. Is there any discussion?

Susan Allen: Are there two manuals? One is the manual and one is the arboreal specifications?

Nate Bottom: Yeah. There's the arbor cultural specifications manual that kind of lays out the various procedures for trimming and maintaining trees and planting trees. Correct? And then the urban forestry plan will be our kind of our living document, our five year plan or longer possibly.

Jeff Reim: It'd be like the tree management plan from Champaign.

Randy Belville: So we create a committee to handle this or are you guys thinking that you're going to handle this as a whole?

Nate Bottom: I think it's going to be a joint effort. I think we're going to provide you various information. Jeff will provide you the technical knowledge and the data that the city has.

Jeff Reim: Our process, our policies.

Susan Allen: It still seems that it's better to handle it maybe in a working meeting rather at this business meeting. And maybe that was the question, that there'd be a committee dealing with that.

Nate Bottom: Yes, the subcommittee.

Randy Belville: So would you accept an amendment to create a subcommittee?

Rianne Hawkins: I would.

Jan Von Qualen: Randy has amended the motion to include creation of a subcommittee.

Randy Belville: Correct.

Amy McEuen: For the urban forestry plan?

Randy Belville: Yes.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there a second to that motion as amended?

Amy McEuen: I'll second.

Jan Von Qualen: We have a second by Amy. Is there any more discussion? All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Jan Von Qualen: Opposed? The motion as amended has passed.

Amy McEuen: I have a question. Do we want to form that subcommittee now while we're thinking about it or put that on the next meeting's agenda?

Jeff Reim: Put it on the next agenda.

Amy McEuen: Okay.

Susan Allen: It makes sense to see who would be interested in it when we're here.

Nate Bottom: I think we can wait until the next meeting and then everybody can think about it. Think if they want to be on it. Think about some of the items and how much work is going to take.

Amy McEuen: Yeah.

Jan Von Qualen: Right. We can maybe think about if there are any specific portions of the plan that would interest anybody because we might split it up that way too to make it a little less...easier to digest I guess. Is there anything else about the Springfield urban forestry plan? Next item is the arbor day activities. We have had some discussion of that. Is there anything else we need to discuss about the arbor day activities tonight?

Susan Allen: We might have another meeting Jan, but that would just be something if we determine another meeting would be necessary and then we'd get in touch with Nate and then whoever could post up whatever they have to do to have a special meeting if that's what it's called.

Jan Von Qualen: Right. What we did last month was we asked Jeff and Nate to put up notice of a special open meeting for the October 31 meeting. Susan had suggested that that would be a good idea to do and we may do that in the future where we send an email around and ask people if they could attend a special open meeting and then we need to give notice of it and have a posting of the meeting and its agenda, I think two days in advance.

Randy Belville: Then we were going to come back together after they had their meetings with District 186. Isn't that correct, Susan?

Susan Allen: Yeah, I think that's what we planned.

Jan Von Qualen: Do we want to propose a day or time tonight?

Ernestine Lawrence: We have to wait until (inaudible), (inaudible) had been sick so she just went back to work. She's going to get with some other group of people and meet with us. Give us a date.

Jan Von Qualen: The next thing on the agenda is educational activities. And I did take a look at the Lincoln library. It looks like a lot of time, Thursday evenings are open. There

are times in the evenings that we could host educational events. So I, I didn't actually line up anybody for an educational event yet, but I know I'm like Amy could possibly give one on maybe the importance of native trees or the value of trees, something like that.

Randy Belville: When I spoke with the Guy, he said he or Elena too would be interested. And he also had given me the name and number of somebody called trees forever. I guess there's a representative out of Iowa.

Jan Von Qualen: Yes. There's someone I think in Taylorville.

Randy Belville: Maybe it was just their headquarters is in Iowa, but he suggested possibly having them as one of our (inaudible).

Susan Allen: And you mentioned Mike Brunk, right?

Jan Von Qualen: Yes and Mike Brunk also. So before the next meeting I'll try to set something up with somebody for something in January. Well I guess January is our next meeting. So sometime in January after our next meeting or early February maybe. Also, Susan Allen sent me a thing for a webinar about health benefit of city trees. It's going to be a webinar on November 19th at 12:00 PM mountain time. If anyone is interested, I'll go ahead and forward that email around. Yes, Jeff, you're interested? I'll forward that email around. People can register for that.

Susan Allen: And that was sent out by Elena at Starhill wasn't it? At the arboretum. She had information about that, but it does look very good and it's free and it's next Tuesday.

Jan Von Qualen: Okay, are there any public comments?

Anne Logue: One tiny one.

Jan Von Qualen: Yes.

Anne Logue: I just want to thank you guys for being here. The GIS issue, there are two components that help with the trees and individually monitoring them. But there's also the aerial assessment that you can get through data and you can use different sources. UIS has the ability to do that for free and that would give us a general figure of percentage of tree cover and that could track us. It's just like when you get on a scale and you see how much you weigh. It would be a really effective tool. It would cost us nothing. I've already got Dakota with Professor Yun, he's in charge of GIS technology out at UIS. I'm working with Riley and that's been kind of a big deal for me because we really need to be able to do an aerial assessment on an annual basis. It's easy to get bogged down with a lot of expense with the individual assessment. I'm not saying it's not important, but this would be an inexpensive tool that you could use every year, if

the city could work with UIS on an annual basis to get this done it would be very helpful. Cause you can see right now we're at 24%. A couple of years ago I had a student do it and he assessed the tree cover at 24%, that's very low and we could track it and see if we can get it up to 30%. Of course replacing every tree we would cut down with a tree.

Jan Von Qualen: Could that be a visual to show where the trees are and where they are not also?

Anne Logue: It assesses the tree cover. It's like, you know, a Google map kind of thing. It's very specific. It has a lot finer technology and Dakota who I talked to, she's just, she's brilliant and you're just standing next to her. She had all these great ideas and you could tell that she didn't even like my (inaudible) program. That's nothing. So I mean I've been trying to push that for a while because that's so easy to do, but she was not impressed. So I think that what I'm seeing is a partnership with UIS, not necessarily have students, you know, climb all over the city or anything like that. But the GIS technology that they could pull from would be free and an intern could do it. No problem.

Amy McEuen: Yeah. I can speak to that. This makes a lot more sense. You're talking about using remote sensing data to get an overall canopy percentage and to get problem spots and things like that. Yes. So that is something that is very feasible to do and could be done on an annual basis.

Randy Belville: That's only one component of a tree survey.

Amy McEuen: Absolutely. That's very different from knowing the composition and the age and the health and all of the detail that...

Anne Logue: It makes us accountable, you know, and it makes sure that we're not just like cutting everything down and there was nobody saying, Hey, you know, this is not good. We've got too many trees. You know, we've got too much tree loss, so. Okay. Alright.

Michael Pierce: Well it's definitely a big advantage showing that how we're gaining ground in our canopies, working where we're planting trees, where, you know, where we've got another 5% growth. And I think that's good.

Susan Allen: And a part of it might be just our encouraging, you know, people in Springfield to plant your trees and then you'd be the, what the city's doing, but also what people are doing just interested in the school children. So that'd be a good way to monitor.

Michael Pierce: Well also let it be knowledgeable of we are doing our job. You know we're gaining ground on our canopy.

Jan Von Qualen: Any other public comments?

Erin Kirkpatrick: I'm Erin Kirkpatrick. I'm just a concerned citizen. I know talking about the budget isn't always exciting, but I was really excited to hear about the proposals to involve both the community and to put out like an application for them to be involved and to really feel kind of invested in proud of the community and to involve corporations. I think those are both exciting ideas.

Jan Von Qualen: Thank you.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there any new business?

Susan Allen: Nate, I know you were saying that we have a website or somehow we could post things to a website. You know, we had a presentation tonight of recognition of Sustainable Springfield and that's something we've done. You know, a concrete activity. Is that something that we could put on a website? You know, just our accomplishments.

Nate Bottom: Yeah. I think the plan... well for one, it's kind of a pain to keep the website updated and everything along those lines. And it's generally for meeting minutes as well as official documents, the Arbor cultural specifications manual, the urban forestry plan that we were planning on posting. But I, I'll check as well as educational information that we are providing, but I'll see if we can do that as well. I'm not familiar with us doing that in the past.

Susan Allen: Are you saying there's another avenue like Facebook? How can we show the public what we're doing, what are our accomplishments are?

Nate Bottom: I think that's more of a question for the communications director and how she wants to handle that.

Susan Allen: Could she come and, or somehow could we find out from her or you talk to her and then what we can do to show the community what we're doing here at the urban forestry commission?

Jan Von Qualen: Yeah. We have talked a couple of meetings about what we would like to have posted. So yeah, if either put her in touch with one of us who could report back about things or invite her to a meeting and we can discuss it. Either way would probably work. Is there any other new business? Is there a motion to adjourn?

Randy Belville: I would make a motion at this time for a adjournment.

Jan Von Qualen: Is there a second?

Michael Pierce: Second.

Jan Von Qualen: All in favor?

All: Aye.