

Urban Forestry Commission

Forestry Plan Subcommittee

February 21, 2020 3:00pm

300 S 7th St, Conference Room 203 Municipal Center West

The Forestry Plan Subcommittee of the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) met on February 21, 2020 in the Public Works Conference Room in the Municipal Center West. Randy Belville, Rianne Hawkins, Amy McEuen, and Jan Von Qualen of the UFC were present. Mike Brunk, Urban Forest Administrator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources also attended.

Mike Brunk provided copies of Urban Forestry Management Plans and Strategic Plans from other cities, including Mount Prospect and Genoa, Illinois, San Diego, California. He also provided a booklet, "Community Tree Plans: A Guide for Tree Commissions and Environmental Advisory Councils" ('Community Tree Plans') from Penn State.

Mike suggests that the UFC use 'Community Tree Plans' as a starting point for writing a Forestry Plan. The introduction can be used to describe what we know now about Springfield's forest. Next, would be to write a Vision Statement, to describe the UFC's goals, or what we want Springfield to look like in the future.

There was a discussion of the budget; the Council approved an Urban Forestry budget of \$50,000. The use of the budget was not limited to a specific purpose. The UFC proposes to plant 500 trees this year. Alderman Redpath requested that Public Works reinstate the policy of the City planting parkway trees bought by residents. Placement of the trees and the need for diversity of species and age was discussed. It was suggested that the UFC could decide on a proportionate division of new trees to go to neighborhoods and to City gateways.

This brought us to the need for a tree inventory and Alderman Hanauer's suggestion to send out a RFP and then come back to Council with a reasonable cost for a tree inventory. Mike Brunk gave us a copy of Urbana's RFP to use as a template. The subcommittee could prepare a first draft for Jeff and Nate's review. There is sufficient time to send out the RFP and receive proposals in order to do a survey this year.

At this early point in the process, the Forestry Plan can begin with a Vision statement and goals for the future. Members of the Plan subcommittee will look at 'Community Tree Plans' and the examples of Forestry Plans as we consider what should be included in the Forestry Plan Vision statement. The subcommittee will meet again at 3 p.m. in the Public Works conference room on March 13 and on March 27, 2020.