



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission  
Minutes**

**3:30 p.m. May 11, 2022**

**Room 203, Municipal Center West and via Zoom**

The meeting was called to Order at 3:30 p.m.

In attendance were Susan Allen, Randy Belville, Ernestine Lawrence, Amy McEuen, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, and Dan Brill. Scott Marlow and Nate Bottom arrived for the latter portion of the meeting.

Guests present included Susan Helm and Quentin Jordon.

Ernestine Lawrence made a motion to approve the March 9, 2022, Minutes. Amy McEuen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Jeff Reim reported that Matt Gairani will do an ordinance fact sheet for the Tree Preservation ordinance. Jan is to contact Council members to update them on the ordinance. Jeff is having the trees removed that were identified as priorities in the inventory. Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management, a Graf Tree Care Company, will send the Urban Forestry Management Plan. We will need to set up a date to meet with the Company to discuss it.

Randy Belville stated that the Muni took several Japanese maple trees. Dan Brill reported that four of the Lake Clubs took Japanese maple trees: Sangamo, Anchor, Elk's and Blue Ridge. District 186 requested 30 trees for the kindergarten class.

Jeff described the Mayor's downtown project, which may cost as much as \$700,000. The project includes planting trees in all the openings, including removing the cement from those that were covered. There will also be new planters. Susan Helm asked whether recommended trees would be planted and not maples.

Ernestine reported on the Arbor Day event at the Boys and Girls Club this year. It was well attended, including by the Mayor and Alderman Gregory. Mike Brunk gave brief, inspiring remarks. Mike Brunk also donated a large Bur oak tree from Mason State nursery, which was planted in the yard at the Boys and Girls Club. The Mayor accepted a photo of sidewalk art, depicting trees as the lungs of the earth, created by the Art Association in conjunction with the students.

Jeff said that according to Adena, 4,500 people attended the Earth Day event. UFC gave away upwards of 250 bare root trees. The SMTD shuttle to and from the Zoo added to the success of the event.

Susan Allen thanked Drs. McEuen and Vazquez for the excellent April 7 educational program: Seeds of Hope: the importance of planting natives. She also thanked Alderwoman Conley for being the moderator and Mr. Rice for helping on the technology side. Susan asked that a video and the power point be placed on the UFC's website.

Amy McEuen will contact Ethan Heileman's supervising professor to check on his MacArthur improvement capstone project using iTree.

Susan Allen reported that Trees Forever now has an application for the carbon capture program. Under the program, when trees are planted, they are entered into a databank of the City's forest. The trees are checked at periodic intervals to confirm they are living.

Jeff said the spring tree planting had not yet begun. He said 35 trees will be planted in spaces identified in the inventory. The trees to be planted are crabapple, service berry, red oaks, Japanese lilacs, and hackberry. Jeff said he is not sure if there will be a fall tree planting because of the trees being planted for the downtown project. Jeff also reported that the sweet gum treatment has been very popular. He has been contacted by Alderwomen Conley and Purchase with requests for treatment.

Nate Bottom indicated that he has been contacted by several members of Council about creating a program for removal of Sweet gum trees. He requested input from the UFC. Jan Von Qualen indicated that she had sent an email to all Council members emphasizing the benefits of trees and the harm that would result from removing large, healthy trees. Some of the concerns discussed about a Sweet gum removal program are: the trees should be removed on a case-by-case, not on a first come, first served basis; the condition of the trees should be one of the considerations; residents should be required to pay for at least a portion of the cost to remove and the cost to replace the tree; consideration should be given to the value of the tree and the loss of benefits from the tree to the City. Nate requested that the UFC provide a draft application for removal, including the UFC's suggestions. Jan indicated that she would write a draft and circulate it for other's input before sending it to Nate.

Old Business: Quentin Jordon reported that he was unable to complete and submit the application for the Mayor's Monarch pledge by the deadline this year. He will apply next year and will do stewardship this year. Susan Helm noted that there are prairie and demonstration gardens around Lake Springfield at UIS. Susan Helm will be giving out many free milkweeds that she grew this spring. .

New Business:

Susan Allen and Ernestine suggested that the UFC hold an event to recognize the volunteers that have been helping us. Jan Von Qualen made a Motion that an event to recognize volunteers should be organized. Erskine seconded the Motion and it passed unanimously. Nate said he would check whether the City could pay the costs for a modest event. Dan Brill suggested Bridgeview as the location and offered to check on its availability.

Public comments. Noted above.

Upcoming Educational, Earth Day, and Arbor Day events were announced. The next meeting will be a hybrid with Zoom and physical attendance options, at 3:30 p.m. on May 11, 2022.

Jan made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ernestine. The motion passed unanimously.