



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes**

3:30 p.m. July 13, 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, Ernestine Lawrence, Amy McEuen, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, and Nate Bottom. Absent were Randy Belville, Scott Marlow, Erskine Route, and Dan Brill arrived for the latter portion of the meeting.

Guests present included Riley Potts and T.J. Heavisides.

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

Jeff Reim reported that the Tree Protection Ordinance has been approved by City Council; the Springfield Urban Forestry Management Plan is complete; and updates have been made to the Arboricultural Specifications Manual and the Tree Plan. Susan Allen made a motion that the ASM be posted for public comments. Ernestine Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. This will allow the ASM to be adopted in September.

Riley Potts gave a tour of the GIS tree inventory map, the information it provides, and how it can be manipulated. The map is on the UFC website. Nate Bottom said he hopes to get the northeast quadrant inventory completed.

Nate Bottom indicated that he continues to get requests from Council members about creating a program for removal of Sweet gum trees. Jan Von Qualen indicated that, pursuant to his request, she had sent Nate & Jeff a proposed application addressing the concerns discussed at the prior meeting (trees should be removed on a case-by-case, not first come, first served; 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 said some of the provisions of the proposed application will be added to the City's application. He suggested that residents would be charged \$500 for tree removal, with exception for lower income census areas, which will be charged \$250.

Nate explained that Jeff's sudden decree that no more trees will be planted until fall, was because Nate learned that the State practice is to plant trees in the fall.

The City Traffic Engineer, T.J. Heavisides popped in to announce that he had changed the Lawrence/MacArthur Project proposal by shortening the planned left turn lanes. T.J. said this will result in the necessary removal of only 10 trees as opposed to 55 as originally proposed.

Amy McEuen gave an overview of the Ethan Heilman's Capstone Project, which resulted in a report titled "Urban Tree Initiative on MacArthur Boulevard." Ethan used two of iTrees tools to research the benefits of trees. He learned that "a surprisingly wide range of benefits." Ethan calculated the benefits trees provide by stormwater interception and absorption; absorption or demobilization of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants; impact on household electricity use; reduction of heat island effect; influence on property value. Using i-Tree tools, Ethan

mapped out the area and determined that 174 trees such as Bur Oak, Silver Linden, and Horse Chestnut could fit into the project area, given proper spacing along the west side of the road and inclusion in a few lots along the east side. He calculated that the trees would bring the City a total savings in the areas of stormwater runoff, pollution prevention, and carbon sequestration of nearly \$18,500 in the next ten years. Amy was pleased because Ethan said that as a result of his Project, he is more confident that he wants to pursue a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning with the hopes of eventually becoming a planner. It was suggested that Mayor Langfelder or the UFC sent Mr. Heilman a letter, thanking him for his work. Jan Von Qualen offered to write a draft and send it to Nate.

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. Enrollment will be done in August. Susan will follow up with Nate.

Old Business: Susan Allen and Ernestine reported that they met with Dan Brill at the Beach House. It would be a good location and they reserved it for the Volunteer Appreciation event on October 6, 2022. Nate raised concerns that the event might be outside the UFC's scope of duties and responsibilities. Jan Von Qualen suggested that it could be combined with an educational program. Susan and Ernestine will get slearnome prices for refreshments.

New Business: Kennedy Polanski, a Program Specialist at Girl Scouts of Central Illinois (kpolanski@girlscouts-gcsi.org) has asked if UFC Commissioners would facilitate or co-facilitate a program titled 'Trees Please,' October 1 at Camp Widjwagan, in Springfield. This event is to enable Cadette level Scouts (ages 11-14, 6-8th grade) to earn Tree Badges. Session one will be from 10:00 a.m. to noon; Session two will be from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tree Badge work consists of:

- Step 1: Try some tree fun: Learn about different types of trees and the parts of the trees at Camp Widjwagan.
- Step 2: Dig into the amazing science of trees: Sketch and labeling the parts of the trees
- Step 3: Make a creative project starring trees: Photograph different trees/tree landscapes at Camp Widjwagan. Girls will bring a phone or camera to help complete this portion.
- Step 4: Explore the connection between people and trees: Talk to a local arborist about the kinds of trees that are popular for gardens, yards, or parks where the girls live. Explain why they are popular and their properties. Girls will use this information to sketch and color a dream tree garden that would thrive in their area.
- Step 5: Help trees thrive: Learn how to care for trees. Here, I would love for you to share how to care for trees – from clearing branches after a storm, protecting trees from insect invasions. To how to trim huge branches, and what happens if a major tree is diseased.

Amy McEuen volunteered to help.

Jan Von Qualen noted that Corporation Counsel has suggested that UFC should meet with the person in Building and Zoning who approves landscaping under the City Code, §155.480 of the City Code, to share the recommended tree lists included in the revised Arboricultural Specifications Manual. Jeff suggested that we should meet with Matt McLaughlin or John Harris (217-789-2171, ext. 5106). Jan and Ernestine volunteered to set up a meeting.

Public comments. Noted above.

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