



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission  
Minutes  
3:30 p.m. September 14, 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, Amy McEuen, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, Dan Brill, and Nate Bottom. Absent were Ernestine Lawrence, Scott Marlow, and arrived for the latter portion of the meeting.

Guests present included Emma Kiel, Materials Coordinator, Urban Evolutions, Inc.

Susan Allen made a motion to approve the July 13, 2022, Minutes. Randy Belville seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

There was discussion about the Urban Forestry Management Plan prepared by Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management in conjunction with the tree inventory of a portion of the northwest quadrant of Springfield. Amy McEuen made a motion that the Plan be adopted. The motion was seconded by Jan Von Qualen and passed unanimously.

Next the updates to the Arboricultural Specifications Manual were discussed. Randy Belville made a motion that the ASM be adopted as revised. Susan Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Some concerns were raised about the proposed updates to the Tree Plan. Randy Belville made a motion that the Tree Plan be tabled until the November meeting. Jan Von Qualen seconded the motion and it passed.

Randy Belville reported that there are only a handful of Japanese Maples remaining. Jeff Reim indicated that he knows some people that may be interested in them.

Nate Bottom reported that Public Works held another open house about the proposed addition of left turn lanes to the Lawrence Ave./MacArthur Blvd intersection. He reported that the design had been modified to shorten the length of the turn lanes. This modification results in decreasing the number of trees to be removed from 80 to 15. Nate said the City will replace the trees to be removed. Randy Belville noted that more than half of the trees to be removed are in poor condition and should be removed anyway. The decrease in the number of trees to be removed was well-received by the public. Nate said the plan still needs to be approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Nate Bottom suggested that since the application deadline was looming, the City should wait to apply for the Trees Forever carbon capture program until next year. He said the City will take photos of the trees planted this year and they will count for future credits.

Randy Belville noted that grates are still strangling the trees in the park across from the Lincoln Museum. Nate Bottom said the City will send a crew to remove them. Amy McEuen asked if some process could be put in place so that this does not happen again in the future. Nate said a work order will be put into City Works to have the tree grates checked annually.

There was a discussion maintenance and watering of all the new trees and planters to be placed downtown this fall. Randy Belville noted that there would be efficiencies in using a small vehicle such as a Gator and getting water from fire hydrants, rather than hauling water downtown in a truck. suggested

Emma Kiel, Material Coordinator, Urban Evolutions, Inc. (urbanevolutions.com), spoke about the possibility of Urban Evolutions, Inc., purchasing and using fallen city trees in commercial projects. She said Urban Evolutions tends to do large projects (6-12 cords) with a lot of veneer grade trees. The Company has mostly worked with Ash but is interested in Maples and Oaks as well. Emma asked if the City would have a place to store the trees as the Company would pick up the trees annually. She estimated that the Company would pay \$100/cord for 12 cords and would pay for transportation. The trees should be about 12" diameter at breast height and the logs should be 8.5-10' long.

There was a discussion of ideas, goals, partnerships, and plans for the coming year. Ideas included:

- How to collaborate with other tree-friendly entities, such as Park District, Lake Services, and Friends of the Sangamon Valley;
  - Reach out to Park District arborist, Chuck Smith;
  - Partner with neighborhood associations, such as Pioneer Park and Twin Lakes;
  - Have Dan Brill explain how trees are managed by Lake Services
    - Dan explained that Lake Services is paid for by water bills; there is an intern for a water project; he would like an intern for a GIS project; it was mentioned that Ruth Oliver does tree inventories.
- Educational program ideas included, have Graf Tree Company speak to Council and provide a public program; program on the challenges of managing the forest for Lake quality; and a UIS panel.

Susan Allen reported that there is a \$25,000 Grant available from the Morton Arboretum for tree planting. Susan volunteered to write the Grant application.

Serviceberry, Silverbell, and Red Bud trees were suggested for the give-away next spring. Jeff will notify potential bidders of the tree species the City will be planting next year.

Public comments. Noted above.

Randy Belville made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Erskine Route. The motion passed unanimously.