



**City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission
Minutes
3:30 p.m. November 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, Scott Marlow, Amy McEuen, Erskine Route, Jan Von Qualen, Jeff Reim, and Nate Bottom. Absent were Ernestine Lawrence and Dan Brill.

Amy McEuen made a motion to approve the September 14, 2022, Minutes. Susan Allen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Jeff Reim updated us on the downtown project. He said that just about all the new downtown planters have been placed and filled. All the 5' x 5' tree planting holes are ready for the new trees to be planted. Randy Belville asked about removal of grates near the Abraham Lincoln Museum. He also noted that there is a locust tree in that area that should be removed.

Susan Allen reported that with the help of Donna Davlantis, an application for a \$25,000 grant to plant trees in the northeast quadrant of the City had been completed and filed. Susan indicated that the trees to be planted had to be itemized. She said the Grant may be a long shot as it was focused on inventories, management plans, and tree ordinances.

Randy Belville reported that he and Jan Von Qualen had picked up about 160 2-3 gallon trees, from Forest Releaf, Inc. in Creve Coeur, near St. Louis. Randy had applied and received the trees as a Grant. He described the large nursery operation at Releaf. Forest Releaf had a couple paid staff but relies mostly on volunteers. Releaf gets bareroot seedlings from the Missouri equivalent of the Department of Natural Resources. Releaf pots up the seedlings and grows them a couple years in its which nursery. Then Releaf gives them to entities, such as cities, to be planted. There will be another Grant application opportunity in the spring.

There was a discussion of upcoming events. Steve Lane of Graf Tree Co. will give a 10-minute presentation to Council on the 3rd Tuesday in December. Plans were made for a Tree Planting Workshop on December 3. Ruth Oliver, Randy, and Amy will provide instruction. Plans were discussed for future volunteer tree planting events. It was determined that Steve Winking, who takes care of this for the City, would make the calls for J.U.L.I.E. locates.

Ideas for educational programs in 2023 included having Guy Sternberg or Stan Tyson as speakers.

Jan asked Jeff to ask Julia to post the 2022 Revised Arboricultural Specifications Manual and the new Forestry Management Plan on the UFC webpage.

Randy had driven around Harvard Park and reported that of the many Japanese maples that were planted by volunteers last summer, there were only two losses, (aside from the ones that had been cut down.). Randy said the trees were well cared for; the neighbors seemed to have adopted them.

Nate reported that the inventory of the northeast quadrant of the City is complete. Graf Tree Care will be providing the results soon. He said the City found the results very helpful and will continue by beginning an inventory of the southeast quadrant in 2023. It was suggested that Leland

Grove's inventory information could be incorporated into Springfield's GIS data. Nate said it probably could, but it would be imperative to keep the Leland Grove readily distinguishable from the City's.

Updates on City projects. There will be a public meeting on the MacArthur Blvd. project next Wednesday, November 18, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The Lawrence Ave. project will likely get underway in 2024. The 3rd Street rail project is in the hands of Hanson engineers. Scott Marlow asked about the possibility of planting trees on the old Pillsbury property, but the property is still being cleaned up and demolished.

It was determined that, as spring is the UFC's busiest time of year, in 2023 meetings will be held February 8, March 8, April 13, June 8, August 10, and October 12.

Susan Allen announced that there will be an Arbor Day event in Leland Grove on November 20 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church of Christ.

Randy made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Scott. The motion passed unanimously.