

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2019**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order

Forestry Commission President Kristin Sobatka called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Kristin Sobatka, Commission Members Dianne Benjamin, Barbara Chicherio, Mary Harvey, Irv Logan, David Rowan, and Julie Teixeira. Also in attendance was Council Liaison Jeff Hales, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Darren Dunkle, and Parks Maintenance Superintendent Ewald Winker.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Benjamin pointed out two places her name was misspelled. **Commission Secretary Chicherio motioned and Commission Member Logan seconded to approve the minutes of March 13, 2019. The motion was approved with a 7-0 vote.**

Agenda Item #4: Council Report - Jeff Hales reported the following:

- 1) Delmar Loop Week is being held from June 15 through June 22, 2019.
- 2) There is a Council Study Session being held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6 pm on the 5th floor of City Hall to discuss what led to the cancellation of Fair U. City.

Agenda Item #5: Department Report - Ewald Winker reported the following:

- 1) There was quite a bit of storm damage since the last meeting.
- 2) Planting will begin next week and run through June.

Agenda Item #6: Unfinished Business

- 1) Informational Brochure:
Barbara will resend the newer version of the brochure along with requested documentation to Jeff, Allison Danberger, and the Parks Staff for approval.
- 2) Distribution:
 - Give to people prior to coming before the commission to make them aware of why trees may or may not be removed.
 - Put a blurb in the city newsletter.
 - Include with Arbor Day information.
 - Put on city website.

Agenda Item #7: New Business - The following points were brought up:

- 1) Arbor Day:
We are required to hold a celebration of some sort each year. There was a discussion as to what we wanted to do. It was decided that we should wait until the new Forester was hired so that we could get his/her input. Maybe hold a launch for the new employee along with the celebration. This has been tabled until the July 10, 2019 meeting.

- 2) Introduction of New Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Director:
Darren Dunkle is graduate of Missouri State University. He spent time in Ballwin, Olivette, Chesterfield, and Washington in various capacities before coming to University City.
- 3) New Forester:
Interviews are being held on Thursday, May 9 and Friday, May 10, 2019. The new employee will begin hopefully June 1, 2019.
- 4) Change in meeting times:
Dianne asked about changing our meeting times from 7 pm to 6 pm starting next year. This is something that can be done when forms for the new calendar are sent to the departments sometime in October.
- 5) Next Meeting:
In the past, the July meeting has been cancelled due to availability of commission members. We will not cancel July unless we cannot reach a quorum as this is the first time the new Forester will be in attendance.

Agenda Item #8: Update of Development Projects – None.

Agenda Item #9: Citizen Comments - No comments.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

Commission Member Teixeira made a motion at 7:40 pm, seconded by Commission Member Logan to adjourn. The motion was approved with a 6-0 vote.