

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order

Forestry Commission President Kristin Sobatka called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Kristin Sobatka, Commission Members Dianne Benjamin, Irv Logan, David Rowan, and Julie Teixeira. Also in attendance was Council Liaison Jeff Hales, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Darren Dunkle, and Forestry Supervisor Jacob Kaiser. Absent were Commission Vice President Barbara Chicherio and Commission Member Mary Harvey.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

Commission Member Teixeira motioned and Commission Member Logan seconded to approve the agenda with no changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Teixeira motioned and Commission Member Rowan seconded to approve the minutes of September 11, 2019 with no changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #5: Citizens' Comments

Kathy Freese shared the mission/vision of her volunteer organization Tree Keepers with the Commission. She hopes that University City will sanction her group in order to attract more volunteers and to spread the word about the organization. Tree Keepers volunteers will plant, mulch, pull weeds, go door to door, whatever it takes to get more trees for University City. She is currently working with Forester Kaiser and Director Dunkle developing a plan for continued work with this organization which includes a volunteer handbook. Webster Groves has a similar organization. Kathy has been a member of Forest Relief for twenty years.

Agenda Item #6: Department Report – Darren Dunkle reported the following:

- 1) Tree Removals and Limb Pickup – ongoing
- 2) Ordinances – currently being reviewed
- 3) Emerald Ash Borer Bid – due November 15th. Anticipated Recommendation presented to City Council November 25th.
- 4) Tree Trimming Bid – currently being put together
- 5) MSD – continuing to work on easement for sewer work
- 6) Tree City USA – working on renewal of City designation. Will also be applying for the growth award this year and future years.
- 7) Community Canopy Program – looking into this program
- 8) Greensfelder Park – Open House for the concept design for redevelopment on November 19th from 5:00 until 6:30 pm

Agenda Item #7: Council Liaison Report – Jeff Hales reported the following:

- 1) City Council is meeting with all of the Commissions (study session). The Urban Forestry Commission is being scheduled. More information will be forthcoming.
- 2) There is some concern about the maintenance some trees require. Do we take into consideration the amount of street sweeping that happens in an area when we plant certain trees? A tree inventory could help. Kathy Freese suggested that maybe the Tree Keepers volunteers could provide some assistance with this huge task.

Agenda Item #8: Unfinished Business

- 1) Arbor Day Celebration – Saturday, April 18, 2020. We will be working with the Earth Day Committee to conduct an Arbor Day Event.
- 2) Acceptable Street Tree List Review – handed out at last meeting and followed up with an email to each Commission Member. List will need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Could be posted on the University City webpage to be used as a guide or for research purposes for residents.
- 3) Concerns: Commission Member Dianne Benjamin feels that the Native Trees section needs to be reworked to be more consistent with city ordinances. She volunteered to work on this and send it to Kaiser and Dunkle.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

None

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

Commission Member Rowan made a motion at 8:11 pm to adjourn and was seconded by Commission Member Teixeria. The motion was approved unanimously.