

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION  
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022**

**Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

**Agenda Item B: Roll Call**

Those in attendance included Commission President Kristin Sobatka, Secretary Kathy Freese, and Commission Members Dianne Benjamin and Dana Barhard. Also in attendance was Council Liaison Aleta Klein, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Darren Dunkle, and Forestry Supervisor Jacob Kaiser. Absent was Commission Vice President Aaron Bitzer.

**Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda**

Commission Secretary Kathy Freese motioned, and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to accept the Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes**

Commission Member Benjamin stated that her first name had been misspelled. Commission Secretary Kathy Freese motioned, and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments**

None.

**Agenda Item F: Department Report** – Forestry Supervisor, Jacob Kaiser reported on the Forestry Reports.

- a) Gamma Tree Experts (Contractor) began the removal of hazardous large trees (as identified in the Tree Inventory) in all wards of the city.
- b) Monster Tree Service (Contractor) will begin next week with the trimming of trees.
- c) Gateway Green Conference – Gave an overview of the conference primarily on the topics of Natives and percentages of any type of tree.

**Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report** – Ms. Klein reported on the following:

- a) Ms. Klein reported on the Prop F (proposed ¼ cent sales tax) that will be placed on the April ballot. If approved, funds could be used to add a third ambulance and crew as well as the Fire Departments portion of the pension fund. She further stated that there is a potential to add a home health care component to the third ambulance to provide this service to seniors.
- b) Ms. Klein stated that the Costco site should be pad ready by the spring of 2022 with an opening in the fall. Developer is still acquiring property for the entire development.

**Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business**

- a) Commissions Role – Mr. Dunkle reported on the handout that was provided to the Commission regarding Agenda and Meeting Procedures. Discussion followed by the Commission in regard to obtaining training on Robert's Rules of Order and Sunshine Laws etc.

- b) Arbor Day Celebration – Mr. Kaiser reported that he was currently working on the Arbor Day Celebration and that he had spoken to the Green Center about the possibility of hosting the event at their location. He further stated that he had ordered bare root seedlings for give aways.
- c) Memorial/Donation Policy – Mr. Dunkle presented the revised policy for the Commissions consideration. Discussion took place regarding the need to advertise the program once approved by City Council.

Commission Secretary Freese motioned, and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to support the Policy. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda Item #10: New Business**

- a) Future Meetings – Mr. Dunkle reported that the Commission could either hold their meetings in public or via Zoom. However, if held in person it would need to be conducted another location other than the Community Center as it is currently being used by the City Court and the Traffic Commission. The Commission stated that they would be fine with meeting in person as long as there was room to spread out. Mr. Dunkle stated that he would see what other areas were available to meet at and would get back with the Commission.

#### **Agenda Item J: Commission Comments**

- a) Commission Member Benjamin stated that the 2040 Task Force was going to have several Think Tank Meetings and they wanted to get the community survey out and completed by 500 people. As such she asked the Commission to go on the City's website to fill out the survey.
- b) Commission Secretary Freese gave an update on the Ruth Park woods project. Stating that they have been having several volunteer workdays every other Saturday and have made great progress on the removal of the Wintercreeper and removing vines that are choking out the small trees. She further stated that if individuals were interested in volunteering, they could sign up on the UCity In Bloom's website.

#### **Agenda Item #12: Adjournment**

Commission Secretary Freese motioned, and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:17 pm.