

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

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

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Commission Vice President Aaron Bitzer motioned and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to accept the Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Commission Secretary Kathy Freese made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting and Vice President Bitzer seconded.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

Mr. and Mrs. Ruth residents at 7205 Watermann avenue made the case to appeal the city forester's decision to not have the city owned sweet gum tree in front of their home removed due to a sewer lateral interference.

Commission member Dianne Benjamin made a motion to give permission to the residents to remove the tree at their own expense and the city will be responsible for planting a new street tree. The motion was seconded by Aaron Bitzer and all commission members unanimously supported the decision.

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

- a) July 26th flood created some issues with department operations
 - i. No forestry vehicles were lost
 - ii. Shop has been completely flood repairs are pending
 - iii. 6 chainsaws were lost to the flood
- b) 24 trees removed in July and August
- c) 352 trees were pruned in July and August
- d) Pruning contract is 72% complete

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

- a) Ms. Klein discussed flood recovery as it impacted the city overall
 - i. 1.6 Million in damages
 - ii. Goal is to mitigate losses with insurance and FEMA
 - iii. City is in good financial condition
- b) Costco is opening October 25th
 - a. Development of nearby properties happening soon

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

- a) Community Forestry plan-Motion to approve the annual community forestry plan was made by Dianne Benjamin and seconded by Aaron Bitzer

Agenda Item I: New Business

- 1. None

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

- a) None

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission Vice President Aaron Bitzer motioned, and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:28 pm.