

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 Vice President Aaron Bitzer made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting and Commission Member Diane Benjamin seconded.

**Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizen's comments

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

- a) Annual Pruning contract will be completed at the end of November
- b) Next Annual Pruning contract will go out to bid as early as the end of November
- c) Hazardous Tree Removal Contract will begin in November
  - a. 81 trees
- d) Ash Removal and Replacement Contract will begin in December
  - a. 49 trees
- e) 96% of trees pruned in October and September were pruned by a contractor
- f) 100% of trees removed and planted in October and September were done by city staff
- g) 83 trees planted in October and September
- h) 14 trees removed in October and September
- i) Year to Date totals
  - a. Removed 193 trees
  - b. Planted 144 trees
  - c. Pruned 1832 trees
- j) Shop and Office are still in disrepair
  - a. Waiting on reimbursement from FEMA

**Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report** – Ms. Klein was absent, therefore there was no council report

**Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business**

None

## **Agenda Item I: New Business**

1. None

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

- a) Commission Member Dianne Benjamin asked Mr. Kaiser what the ordinance states regarding city trees and proximity to homes/structures. Mr. Kaiser stated that city trees are to be pruned a minimum of 12 feet away from homes and structures.
- b) Commission Member Kathy Freese reported on the Ruth Park Woods project
  - a. Volunteers are removing honeysuckle and wintercreeper
  - b. The volunteer group has been working hard to educate the public while on the trail about their efforts to combat invasive species.
- c) Commission Member Dianne Benjamin commented that Crixdale avenue looks much better since the forestry crew spent some time in August cleaning it up.

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

Commission Vice President Aaron Bitzer motioned, and Commission Member Benjamin seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:02 pm.