

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10th, 2023**

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 City Forester Jacob Kaiser, Deputy Director of Parks and Forestry Todd Strubhart, City Clerk LaRette Reese, Commission Member Kathy Freese, Commission Member Tim Schroeder, Commission Member Dianne Benjamin, Commission Member Dana Barhard. Jane Zeni a resident of University City also sat in on the meeting. Absent from the meeting were Commission Member Aaron Bitzer and Council Person Aleta Klein.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Benjamin made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting and Commission Member Barhard seconded. Commission Member Schroeder abstained due to this being his first meeting.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

Resident Linda Pruitt of 851 Saxony court was not in attendance but did have an appeal that was on the agenda. The appeal was to the decision of the City Forester to not remove a Sweet Gum tree in the tree lawn in front of the residence. Her letter of appeal as well as supporting documents can be found in the meeting packet.

Discussion from the commission about the tree and the condition of the sidewalk. Commission Member Schroeder recommends that the decision of the City Forester to not have the tree removed should be upheld, however The City Forester shall reach out to the resident to give the contact information of Eugene Kuelker, Project Manager in Public Works, regarding the sidewalk slab repair. The recommendation was seconded by Commission Member Benjamin and was approved unanimously by the commission.

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

- a. Annual Pruning Contract
- b. Miscellaneous Tree Removal Contract
- c. The work of in-house City Staff
- d. Rushmore Sidewalk Project and Tree Removals Mentioned
- e. Commission Member Freese asked about the status of office rebuild after the flood

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

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

Discussion was had on the draft of the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Commission discussed the timeline of when the plan would be complete and setting up a meeting to discuss between official meetings. City Clerk Reese cautioned the commission to adhere to Sunshine Laws while meeting outside of the scheduled commission meetings.

Agenda Item I: New Business

- a. Election of Officers- Commission Member Kathy Freese motioned that Tim Schroeder be president which was seconded by Commission Member Barhard. The decision was approved unanimously. Commission Member Schroeder motioned that Dana Barhard be vice president which was seconded by Kathy Freese. The decision was approved unanimously.
- b. Jacob Kaiser mentioned the Arbor Day Celebration ant Kingsland Park on May 20th
 - a. Deputy Director Todd Strubhart had questions about the flyer made by UCity in Bloom regarding memorial bench.
- c. Commission Bylaws were presented to the commission and discussed.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

Commission Member Freese mentioned the project at Ruth Park Woods and the opening ceremony of April 16th.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission President Tim Schroeder motioned, and Commission Vice President Barhard seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 8:01 pm.