

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroder, Vice President Dana Barhard, Secretary Kathy Freese, and Commission Members Araon Bitzer and Roger McFarland. Also in attendance was Council Liaison Aleta Klein and Forestry Supervisor Jacob Kaiser. Absent was Commission Member Jane Zeni.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Commission Member Freese motioned, and Vice President Dana Barhard seconded to accept the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Secretary Freese motioned to approve the minutes from July 2023 and Commission Member Bitzer seconded. Commission Member McFarland abstained from the vote due to not being a member during the July meeting. All other members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

None.

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

- a) Update on the July 1st storm.
 - i. Clean up was completed in mid-September
 - ii. Lack of staff added to the slow progress on cleanup
- b) Staffing
 - i. Forestry Supervisor Kaiser informed the commission of lack of staffing and staffing request of adding minimum 1 crew member to forestry
- c) Planting Fall Season
 - i. Forestry Supervisor Kaiser informed the commission that fall planting season will be cancelled due to being behind from storm cleanup efforts
- d) Forestry Monthly Reports
 - i. Discussion on attached monthly reports

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

- a) Some FEMA money has been issued for relief from the flood in July of 2022
- b) Briefly reported on the status of the renovation of the police annex

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

- a) Comments on Urban Forestry Management Plan
 - i. A revised edition was presented to Mr. Kaiser to update and bring to Deputy Director of Parks and Forestry as well as Director of Parks and Forestry
 - ii. Final edition will be voted on at a following commission meeting to be the long-range plan for the Forestry Division.

- b. Commission bylaws
 - i. Revisions to the current bylaws were presented to Mr. Kaiser and a revised edition will be voted on at the next meeting.

Agenda Item I: New Business

- a) Annual Forestry Plan
 - i. The current Annual Forestry Plan was discussed by Mr. Kaiser
 - ii. Commission Member McFarland questioned why the amount of contract money was double salaries of the Forestry Division. Posed the question why not spend more money on salaries instead of contracts.
- b) Sustainability Metrics for our Urban Forests
 - i. President Schroder spoke on the idea of having the commission identify some metrics for the urban forest to measure progress of division.
- c) Trees in flooded areas and watershed
 - i. Mr. Kaiser touched on planting the right tree in the right spot and the selection of trees on Wilson ave.
- d) Potential partners for forestry projects
 - i. Mr. Kaiser spoke about Missouri Department of Conservation, Forest Releaf, and potential Federal grant money available.
- e) Communications to residents
 - i. Vice President Barhard presented some ideas that could be possibly communicated to the public via the city's Communication Director that could inform people of the importance of the urban forest as well as answer questions regarding trees and plants on their own property
- f) Review of University City Comprehensive Plan as it Relates to Forestry
 - i. President Schroder spoke about the current draft of the comprehensive plan and the items that were added regarding the urban forest because of Ms. Kennedy's presentation at the July meeting.
- g) Tiny Forests Big Benefits
 - i. Secretary Freese spoke about an idea that started in the Netherlands that plants small groups of evenly aged trees in small areas that provide many benefits including healthier trees, improved soil microbe activity, and increased beneficial insects and pollinators.
 - ii. Secretary Freese presented a couple articles for the commission to look at before next meeting.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

none

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission Member Bitzer motioned, and Commission Member McFarland seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:47 pm.