

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday January 10, 2024**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroeder, Vice President Dana Barhard, Secretary Kathy Freese, and Commission Members Roger McFarland, Linda Freid, Council Person Aleta Klein and Deputy Director of Parks Todd Stewart (in attended in place of Jacob Kaiser). Not in attendance were Forestry Supervisor Jacob Kaiser and Commission Members Aaron Bitzer and Jane Zeni.

Introduction:

Tim Schorder introduced the idea of following Roberts Rules of Order in order to conduct more efficient meetings where everyone has a chance to speak. He further announced that all appeals must be submitted to the commission one meeting in advance of a discussion to prepare for that discussion. This does not eliminate citizen partition. Finally, Tim requested Agenda Items H: Unfinished Business and I: New Business be brought forward to be after E: Citizen's Comments.

The changes were made into motion by Tim, seconded by Kathy Freeze and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Commission Member Freese motioned, and Commission Member Freid seconded to accept the revised agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Vice President Barhard motioned to approve the minutes from November 2023 and Commission Member McFarland seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F (Formerly Item H): Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Agenda Item G (Formally Item I): New Business

Commission President Timothy Schroeder lead a Brainstorming Session on Sustainability Metrics. The commission identified 14 metrics they were interested in knowing. They are listed as follows in the order presented.

Each item was then given a group number (shown before each line) to classify the items.

- 1 Canopy Coverage
- 1 Number of Trees
- 2 Percent of Contract Work vs. In-house

- 1 Number Pruned, Planted or Removed
- 2 Volunteer Work
- 1 Age Diversity
- 1 Species Diversity
- 4 State / County Trees
- 1 Size Class Distribution
- 4 New Planting Areas
- 4 Resident Communication
- 3 Watering Manhours
- 3 Removal of High-Risk Trees
- 2 Storm response Time in Manhours

After regrouping the items, each classification was given a name and each item was assigned a measurement methodology (shown in red) to create the following chart:

Status

- 1 Canopy Coverage Percent vs. Goal
- 1 Number of Trees Number
- 1 Number Pruned, Planted or Removed # & % of Goal / City vs. Contract
- 1 Age Diversity Number & Percent of Goal
- 1 Species Diversity Number & Percent of Goal
- 1 Size Class Distribution Number

Labor

- 2 Percent of Contract Work vs. In-house Number of Hours & Dollars
- 2 Volunteer Work Number of Hours
- 2 Storm response Time in Manhours Hours, Dollars, and Division

Risk

Mitigation

- 3 Watering Manhours Manhours
- 3 Removal of High-Risk Trees Manhours

Future

Impacts

- 4 State / County Trees Inventory / Plan
- 4 New Planting Areas Inventory / Plan
- 4 Resident Communication Goals:
 - 4 U-City Roars
 - Website
 - U-City News
 - Social Media

The question of how Ruth Woods fits into the plan was discussed. It was noted the woods counts in the overall canopy cover of the city and must therefore be included in future plans.

A photo of the actual marker board is attached.

Agenda Item H (Formerly Item F): Department Report –

There was no Departmental Report due to the absence of Forestry Supervisor, Jacob Kaiser.

The commission brainstormed a list of items to address with Jacob in the future:

- How can Ruth Woods metrics fit into future reports?
- What was the breakdown of in-house vs. contract work for pruning, removals and planting?
- Of the hazardous trees removed how many were high risk?
- How can we better apply for federal funds and create better outreach / citizen communications?

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report – Council Member Klein reported that the City Council has passed the Comprehensive Plan. There will be a study session on the use of Centennial Commons. New classes there will begin in March and the gym and soccer field should open in the fall. City Council has passed a zoning change to allow a mixed used retail / apartment building at the former location of Craft Alliance and the bank,

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

There were no commission comments.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission President Timothy Schroeder motioned to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:35 pm.

