

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday March 13, 2024
(DRAFT)**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroeder, Vice President Dana Barnard, Secretary Kathy Freese, and Commission Members Linda Freid, Roger McFarland, Jane Zeni, Council Person Aleta Klein and Jacob Kaiser Forestry Supervisor. Not in attendance was Commission Member Aaron Bitzer.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Vice President Barnard motioned to accept the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Vice President Barnard motioned to approve the minutes from January 2024 and Commission Member Freese seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

The January and February Forestry Report is attached.

The In-House vs. Contract Forestry Work in 2023 was as follows:

- Removals
 - In-house Staff-67%
 - Contractor-33%

- Pruning
 - In-house Staff-14%
 - Contractor-86%

- Planting
 - In-house Staff-55%
 - Contractor-45%

The Removals count is based on number of trees and does not consider diameter.

The Planting of trees to replace ones damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer is compromised by the budget for replacements.

Related Forestry Work for February:

- 11 Loads of woodchips were taken to Heman Park.
- 5 Loads of sweepings of bark and twigs were taken to the recycle area in Heman Park.
- 10 Loads of logs on the crane truck were taken to Hema Park.

It is a duty of this commission to sponsor an Arbor Day Event in April. Linda Fried will contact the school to plan an event. Jacob suggested a tree planting. The 26th is the state event.

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report

Council Member Klein reported that this would be her last meeting as she is not running for reelection.

She reported funding for a retention basin in Olivette is finalized, MSD continues to do channel clean-up while not officially taking responsibility to do so and Centennial Commons renovation are coming along. Renovations include mitigation steps to limit flooding in the future.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

The draft Key Performance Indicators (KPI) developed last meeting were reviewed. It was agreed the Status category was very good with the exception that age was not measurable, Risk Mitigation items should be absorbed elsewhere, and Future Impacts was deemed to not be a Performance Indicator and should be recategorized as Future Actions.

Status:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Canopy Coverage | Percent vs. Goal |
| Number of Trees | Number |
| Number Pruned, Planted or Removed | # & %b of Goal / City vs. Contractor |
| Species Diversity | Number and Percent of Goal |
| Size Class Distribution | Number |
| Vacant Sites | Number Removed / Not Yet Replaced |

Labor:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Percent of Contract Work vs. In-house | Manhours (may be misleading) |
| Volunteer Hours of Pruning Crews | Manhours |
| Storm Response Time | Manhours |
| Watering Hours | Manhours |
| Removal of Trees Deemed as Hazardous | Manhours |

It was noted that perfectly healthy trees may become potentially hazardous, particularly storm related damage.

Items to be addressed in the future, possibly by sub-committees include the following:

- State and County Trees
- New Planting Areas
- Resident Communications

It was clarified that Forestry will aid U City in Bloom in Ruth Woods by doing select tasks but, concerted efforts in the woods is not currently in the Forestry Budget.

Agenda Item I: New Business

A list of Proposed U City Forestry Commission Communications Topics, attached, was passed out along with the contact information for Mary Goodman the U City Communications Manager. The Communications sub-committee will make an appointment to meet with Mary soon.

The sub-committee will pick several topics to roll out and meet with Jacob prior to issuing articles. Tim and Jacob will review articles prior to publication.

Tim will research Internet grants.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

There were no Commission Comments.

Agenda Item K: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on May 8, 2024.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission President Timothy Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.