

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday November 13, 2024**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroeder, Vice President Dana Barhard and Commission Members Linda Fried, Roger McFarland, Council Liaison Dennis Fuller and Jacob Kaiser Forestry Supervisor. Not in attendance was Commission Members Jane Zeni and Aaron Bitzer.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Tim Shroeder added a discussion on Aron Bitzer's lack of participation to the agenda. Vice President Barhard motioned to accept the agenda as amended. Roger McFarland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

The August meeting minutes were not distributed. They will be approved in a future meeting.

Linda Fried motioned the September meeting minutes be approved. Dana Barhard seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

Jacob Kaiser distributed the October Forestry Report.

The work crew is down to Al Hopkins and one temp worker. Ther is an official open position for one worker.

Tree planting was a focus as the temp worker is not skilled at pruning. Trees were planted where requested by homeowners but, no vacant sites were planted.

A sump grinder has been rented for \$30,000 for six months. To purchase a new one would have been \$85,000 and last up to 20 years. Previously the street department did stump removal in the winter but, now Forestry does it. This is preferred.

The city is implementing a 2018 federal grant to replace sidewalks on Pershing from Forest Park Parkway to Hanley. Jacob was asked to evaluate the trees impacting sidewalks in this stretch. On Pershing 59 trees were identified in poor health and an additional 19 were listed on Ferguson. These will be removed by March and replaced. A water truck will be provided by the grant money. Forestry will pick the tree types.

Engineered soil could be used to mitigate issues with trees and sidewalks but, Public Works will not use it.

Forestry would inspect waterline replacements if it had adequate staff.

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report

The Craft Alliance site is being demolished. The new building will be ground floor retail with three levels of apartments above. Remodeling of the police department continues.

A hotel at Delmar Harvard will go ahead.

A high rise at Westgate will have low income and Senior Citizen apartments.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

The presentation draft to be given to the City Council was briefly discussed. Roger McFarland distributed a handout showing how the presentation has been reorganized. He asked for any comments to be sent to him in the next week.

Agenda Item I: New Business

Donna Baird presented an I-Tree Canopy report she completed. She explained mapping techniques and discussed future additional data points which will improve accuracy.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments / Council Liaison Report

There were no Commission Comments.

Agenda Item K: Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting will be on January 8, 2025, at 6:00pm. A special meeting to discuss the Forestry PowerPoint will be held November 25 at 1:00.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathy Freese and seconded by Roger McFarland. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.