

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday January 8, 2025
(DRAFT)**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Timothy Schroeder at 6:03 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroeder, Vice President Dana Barhard, Secretary Roger McFarland, and Commission Members Kathy Freese and Jacob Kaiser Forestry Supervisor and part-time attendance by Darin Girdler Director of Public Works. Also, resident Theodore Smith attended. Not in attendance were Commission Members Jane Zeni and Linda Fried.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Kathy Freese motioned to accept the agenda. Donna Barhard seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Timothy Schroeder announced the resignation of Arron Bitter was accepted by the city.

Theodore Smith introduced himself.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Kathy Freese motioned to accept the December 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Donna Barhard seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

Darin Girdler Director of Public Works stated the City Manager has a copy of our draft report. He will review and comment. The report will be discussed in a City Council Study Session on March 12 at 5:30 on the 5th floor City Hall.

The city is reorganizing, and Darin will now report to the Deputy City Manager in lieu of the City Manager.

Jacob provided the following Forestry Department report for the year.

Staff removed 166 trees. Planted trees again remain short of the number removed.

A new staff member has been hired and on the job two days. Jacob is again asking for a third position to be hired.

Jacob reiterated that the City Manager wants to review our report prior to any presentation and will comment soon. Jacob will distribute those comments to the commission. The commission will provide a revised copy prior to the study session.

Jacob reported that the latest storm did not impact any trees.

Letters were sent to the nearby residents of the Pershing Ave. sidewalk project. Door hangers will be distributed by Jacob if provided to him

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report

There was no Council Liaison Report.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

Discussion on the communications with University City was discussed. We are still seeking participation from the city.

The commission discussed the memorial tree program. In this program the donor pays for a plaque and Forestry plants a tree. This program should have greater awareness. It is an example of why we need to communicate to residents what Forestry does and how they can benefit.

Agenda Item I: New Business

The election of officers for 2025 was conducted.

Donna Barhard nominated Roger McFarland as Secretary. Kathy Freese seconded the motion. Roger was elected unanimously.

Donna Barhard nominated Timothy Schroeder as President. Roger McFarland seconded the motion. Tim was elected unanimously.

Tim Schroeder nominated Donna Barhard as Vice President. Kathy Freese seconded the motion. Donna was elected unanimously.

Goals for the commission in 2025 were discussed. Roger mentioned that focusing on the technical aspects of trees was proposed at the last meeting.

New goals for 2025 included methodically working through the existing Forestry Management Plan and preparing an updated summary by the March 12 meeting.

To learn more about the technical aspects commission members will distribute information on free web seminars and podcasts.

It was noted that improved communication must again be a formal goal. A Forestry calendar for the year is one idea.

It was suggested we create a speaker series where we present the Forestry Commission Agenda at locations such as the Green Center, the Public Library and elsewhere.

The 2024 Annual Report will be updated for 2025.

Theodore Smith indicated he is interested in joining the commission. Dennis needs to nominate Theodore after he formally applies for the commission role.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

There were no Commission Representative Comments but, it was noted that there should be an Arbor Day event in April. We will ask Linda Fried to take the lead again this year. Tim will contact Linda.

Agenda Item K: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be on March 12, 2025 at 6:00Pm at the Commons.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission President Timothy Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.