

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday July 9, 2025**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Timothy Schroeder at 6:01 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, Jane Zeni and Linda Fried, Jacob Forestry Supervisor and Council Member Lisa Brenner. Also, resident Theodore Smith attended.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

Dana Barhard motioned to accept the agenda. Linda Fried seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Dana Barhard motioned to accept the April 30, 2025 meeting minutes, as amended. Kathy Freese seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

The May 16 tornado caused limited damage in University City. Parkview private subdivision was hardest hit. Per University City storm policy, Forestry clears streets in private subdivisions for emergency vehicle access.

The City fronted the cost of the clean up and will ask FEMA for reimbursement (75%) and the State of Missouri for ten percent reimbursement.

This level of reimbursement will also be sought for all other storm clean up in the city including removing widow makers from trees.

In University City, six trees failed and ten more were removed for safety. Clayton lost around 500 trees.

Other storm debris was removed from Heman Park.

A second storm on the following Monday caused damage on the City's west side.

One new hire is complete, a tree trimmer, starts Monday. Forestry is now staffed by the Forester (Jacob) a crew leader (Al) and the new tree trimmer.

Twenty trees were planted in both April and May. Total hours worked in May were 120 and 256 in June.

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison, Lisa Brenner, stated the excellent Forestry report at city council was well received.

The new city budget includes \$100,000 for Pershing trees. A water truck is expected to be approved in 2027.

The Pershing Project is delayed by one year. MODOT has now initially approved the project but, not on a timeline to complete this year. Final approval is expected in March 2026.

It was noted that the Forestry Commission protocol requires Citizen Partition be requested in writing to Jacob so, the matter can be put on the agenda in advance. Lisa commented most citizen complaints are related to street trees.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

Agenda Item I: New Business

Dana commented that we got good feedback on communication needs at the council meeting.

Jacob stated that he has been able to get articles published and it is very easy. Jacob requests where communications are placed, Jarad approves articles and forwards them to communications.

Theo stated that many residents of the third ward approach him with requests to cut down their tree. It was suggested that Forestry make a presentation at the third ward meeting on the benefits of trees and Forestry's policies on trees. These meetings are quarterly.

Tim suggested we also present at the Green Center.

Another suggestion was to present the notion tree lined streets have less crime to the U City police department.

Roger reported that he had an informal conversation with the mayor who had favorable comments about the Forestry Commission report to city council. Kathy suggested Jacob take a more active role in the next report.

It was reiterated that council requested better communications with residents. State and County Road maintenance are a major concern as trees will not be maintained by the State and County.

Tim introduced a yearly calendar for the commission. It was suggested that Jacob be added to the communications efforts.

The communications sub-committee will meet to discuss ideas.

A goal of one communication in every quarterly ROAR publication was mentioned.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

There were no Commission Member Comments.

Agenda Item K: Next Meeting Date

The next committee meetings will be on September 17 and November 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Commons.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

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