

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday September 17th, 2025**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Timothy Schroeder at 6:00 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President Timothy Schroeder, Vice President Dana Barhard, and Commission Members Kathy Freese, Theodore Smith, and Linda Fried. Jacob Kaiser Forestry Supervisor and Council Member Lisa Brenner were also in attendance.

Agenda Item C: Approval of Agenda

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

Agenda Item D: Approval of Minutes

Dana Barhard motioned to accept the July 9th, 2025 meeting minutes, as amended. Theodore Smith seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

- a) New Hire-Jacob Kaiser spoke about the new hire at the position of tree trimmer. The new hire started on Monday the 8th and this brought the forestry crew up to two people plus Jacob the supervisor. Jacob also stated that a new interim director started around the same time.

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison, Lisa Brenner, stated that the interim director was assigned a 6 month contract and did not want the full time position.

Flood areas from the 2022 flood- the city has a real estate contractor on board to help with the buyouts at Wilson ave and Haffner pl. Linda Fried asked what will happen to the Haffner Pl property and Council liaison Brenner stated that it would be green space.

The contractor for the Pershing avenue projected has been selected and approved by council and work should be begin soon.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

- a) Update from communication subcommittee-notes attached

Kathy Freese conducted a survey of people at the green center event asking what they liked about street trees, what they disliked, and what they wish they knew about street trees. Most people liked the shade provided by street trees. Differing opinions on dislikes such as, wrong tree for the locations and improper care. People wished for more plantings, wished they knew how to request trees, and they wanted a memorial tree program.

Agenda Item I: New Business

- a) Update of meeting with St. Louis County-noted from meeting attached
- b) Review plan for Enclaves at Canton-some discussion on detention ponds and how much water they hold vs how much the forest will take up. What is the Urban Forestry Commissions place in the approval of the project? Does the Urban Forestry Commission have a stance on this subject. It was agreed upon that the stance of the Urban Forestry Commission is that the tree ordinance needs to be followed when the development project proceeds. Especially when it comes to paying into the City Tree Bank. Lida Fired asked the question could the city buy the property and turn it into a park? Council Liaison Brenner said it would not be possible. It was discussed that President Tim Schroeder would speak with the planning commission regarding following the tree ordinance.
- c) Arbor Day Planning- Brainstorm ideas
 - i. Bigger than previous years
 - ii. Plantings at Wilson ave?
 - iii. Planting for heat islands?
- d) Summary of other U City commissions charters-notes attached

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

- a) Kathy Freese mentioned that she used the I-tree tool My tree to compare how much water her mature Sycamore captured as opposed to a 6 inch diameter young tree.

Tim Schroeder mentioned that Commission member Jane Zeni was moving and would no longer be able to be on the commission. Tim would speak with City Clerk LaRette Reese about Jane Zeni no longer being on the commission.

Tim Schroeder mentioned that the Commission's annual report that was presented to council would be presented at the Green Center.

Agenda Item K: Next Meeting Date

The next committee meeting will be on November 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Commons.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission President Timothy Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Notes from 8/15/2025 meeting with county regarding curb trees

County is currently removing dead or dangerous trees and trimming trees based on complaint. They are not using an arborist or professional tree trimmer to do the trimming. It is only the maintenance crew.

They do not plant any curb trees at this time and they discontinued the program to replace trees on personal property when curb trees are taken down.

They are also using asphalt ramps for tripping issues on the sidewalks. Some cities do not like this and want concrete replacement for sidewalks that were heaved.

Agreement can be made with the county where the city does pruning, maintenance of sidewalks due to trees and new tree planting. County will agree to maintain the responsibility of taking down dead trees and clearing downed trees. We can put terms into the contract on how to terminate the agreement or make it limited time.

The county would want an agreement that any trees planted would be appropriate for the site and were planted in a way that protected the sidewalks from hazards. They also wanted to let us know that sidewalks will be replaced in the next 15 years and will comply to new standards including an 8-inch-deep aggregate stone base with concrete laid on top. Currently the sidewalks are 3 1/12 inches deep. Therefore, if there was any investment in trees being planted, you would want to take that in consideration with type of tree and way it is planted so we can better protect those new trees.

Next Steps:

1. Build a potential agreement between the city and the county. The county was going to send one starting with Delmar Blvd. Mr. Rose will receive that agreement
2. Forestry Commission needs to identify which county streets beyond Delmar to target for agreement.
3. A estimate of cost to the city for the maintenance of sidewalks, pruning of trees, and planting trees on the chosen county roads.
4. Present the agreement to the council with cost estimate for the agreement to get council approval.

County contact is Ray Gawlik

University City Contact is Gregory Rose, city manager

Lisa Brenner, councilmember and liaison to Forestry Commission

Communications Subcommittee Report
9-17-2025

- I. Green Center End of Summer Shindig - Sept 14 12-4pm - Forestry Commission table
 - Dana and Kathy attended
 - Obtained brochures about value and care of trees from Forest Relief and MDC
 - Kathy used 3 question form to discuss tree appreciation, care and grievance with visitors
2. New Beneficial Connections
 - I. Forest Relief- Meridith Perkins, Exec Dir.
 2. MO Department of Conservation (MDC)
 1. Contacts: Evan Parker, MDC Community Forester and Ashley Alexander, admin assist
3. Subcommittee Met Aug 27 to discuss our Outreach to the 3rd Ward
 - Scope: street trees
 - Look for opportunities to reach out - events, meetings
 - Cultivate tree champions
 - As per Meridith Perkins, Exec Director of Forest Relief:
 - LISTEN
 - Acknowledge shortage of time or funds
 - Lead with what U City is doing for them: planting street trees, pruning, storm clean-up, removing sick or dying trees
 - Cultivate tree champions among the ward residents
4. Action Items
 - Obtain door knockers from Jacob
 - Develop script to aid in addressing people's grievances with trees
 - Approach schools/teachers, Barbara Jordan and Pershing for potential tree champions
 - Approach Wayne Smotherson & Macy Clay for recommendations of potential tree champions and opportunities to outreach
 - Make sure forestry/trees feature in every future ROARS issue