

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday April 30, 2025**

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, Jane Zeni and Linda Fried, Jacob r Forestry Supervisor and Council Member Lisa Brewer. 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

Donna Barhard motioned to accept the March 12, 2025 meeting minutes, as amended. Kathy Freeze seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item E: Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

Jacob reported that all the trees on Pershing have been removed with minimal community pushbacks. He requested a \$100,000 budget to replace the trees and to buy a water truck from the capitol budget.

Forestry has no official separate budget; it is a subset of parks and recreation's budget. Tree trimming came in \$75,00 under budget but this could not be reallocated to Forestry goals as the funds were retained by Parks and Recreation.

Tim suggested we push to have trees listed as a line item in all future budgets.

The current Forestry leader is going to retire so the staff will again be down to one staff member.

The Annual Forestry Plan has not been formally approved. The approval process steps are 1. Submission by Jacob, 2. Darrin forwards to City Manager and 3. City Council approvals. Tim will contact Darrin to encourage progress on the approval.

Approval draws attention to the plan, guides Forestry on proactive work and reduces reactive work.

Agenda Item G: Council Liaison Report

Our new Council Liaison, Lisa Bremmer, reported that she has a copy of the new draft of the city budget but, she has not reviewed it yet. Revenue is stable or slightly up. She will look to see what the Forestry allotment will be.

She noted some citizen comments on trees and promised a communications plan online.

Agenda Item H: Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business.

Agenda Item I: New Business

Kathleen organized the Arbor Day event. One tree was planted by school children. Tim suggested we make this a bigger deal next year. The idea of creating a forest over time was raised. Wilson Ave. and Greenfelder Park were mentioned as sites.

Coordination with the Green Center and High School was discussed. Planning should begin in earnest in the fall.

Tim suggested we create an annual calendar so that we can plan for events such as this. He will take the lead in drafting one.

Approval of the Annual Forestry Plan was discussed. As there were several comments requiring rework, Jacob will edit the document and send it out via e-mail. To expedite formal approval, Roger McFarland motioned that the committee vote on the acceptance of the plan via e-mail after reviewing the revised document. Kathy Freeze seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

It was noted the plan only covers trees maintained by the Forestry Division. The entire tree canopy of the city is comprised of the following:

Street Trees:

- Trees on state and country roads
- Trees on private neighborhoods streets
- All other street trees

Park Trees

- Trees in Ruth Park Woods
- All other park trees

Trees on residential property

The only trees managed by the Forestry Division are the “All other street trees” and “All other park trees”.

Agenda Item J: Commission Comments

There were no Commission Representative Comments.

Agenda Item K: Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be with the city on June 9, 2025.

The next committee meetings will be on July 9, September 10 and November 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Commons.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

Commission President Timothy Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 7:34 pm.