

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2014

Members Present: Jack Breier, James Crowe, Linda Fried, Tom Sontag, Beth Skelton, Theodore Smith, Irv Logan

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by President Linda Fried

Minutes of the July 9, 2014 were read, Jack motioned to accept, Irv second, motion passed.

City Council Liaison Update: No council person present

Monthly Forestry Reports: July and August were reviewed and after discussion Jack motioned to accept, Tom second, motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Hearings: Ms. Dumaine from 8040 Stanford was not present.

Old Business:

Memorable Tree Walk: Beth announced that the Parks Foundation was interested in holding another Bike the Tree Walk in the spring. They are interested in touring the central west and north west walks. James agreed to have the tree signs needed for identification installed by April 15. James suggested this may be an opportunity for an Arbor Day celebration at the same time. There was discussion on developing some uniformity in the descriptions of the trees and Linda and Beth will work on developing a template. Members will work on getting the walks placed on the city web site.

New Business:

James reported on the Emerald Ash Borer Conference, and presented a memo he wrote describing the future crisis and the forestry departments response. One concern expressed was that trees removed would not be replaced. The commission will work on a plan to educate citizens about the value of trees. James will compile a list of the concentrated areas of Ash trees for the next meeting

Protocol for citizen hearings: Irv presented the procedure for the Missouri Department of Conservation hearings. After discussion it was agreed that the procedure for the citizen hearings would follow these guidelines.

- 1) Citizen would notify the city forester in writing of the request for a hearing
- 2) Complaint would be placed on the next meeting agenda, and members notified in advance so they may investigate.
- 3) Citizen will present their case before the commission members who will have the opportunity to ask questions.
- 4) City forester will present the city's case and members may ask questions.
- 5) The commission will debate and discuss and a decision will be rendered and mailed to the citizen.

Criteria for the decision; does the tree impose an unreasonable burden such as, the tree imposes unjustified costs or does the encroachment of the tree have an effect on the ability to access property.

Update of Development Projects: None

Discussion and citizen comments: None

Meeting was called for adjournment at 8:45pm by Linda

James Crowe