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**DATE:** Wednesday, December 4, 2019  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Urbana Public Works Department, 706 Glover Avenue, Urbana, IL

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## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Carol Augspurger (Chair), Marshall Bellville, Stewart Berlocher, Jackson Bird, Bridget McGill, Michael Stevenson (Vice-Chair),

**Staff Present:** Kevin Sanderson

**Members Absent:** Jacob Torres

**Others Present:** None

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### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. The Commissioners discussed the attendance policy for members.

### Approval of the December 4, 2019 Meeting Agenda

Michael Stevenson moved to add discussion of the May 22, 2019 meeting minutes to the December 4, 2019 agenda. Marshall Bellville seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### Discussion of the May 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Carol Augspurger reviewed the topics discussed at the May meeting. Michael Stevenson moved to include the approval of the May 22, 2019 meeting minutes as an agenda item for the March 4, 2020 meeting. Bridget McGill seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Stewart Berlocher cautioned Commissioners about discussing agenda items through e-mails. He emphasized the importance of discussing items in an open forum.

### Approval of the September 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Carol Augspurger said that the link to the Treekeeper site needed to be corrected. Kevin Sanderson said he would send the corrected link to all and asked that the link be corrected in the minutes. (New Business, c. Tree Deserts in Urbana, first paragraph, last sentence) Jackson Bird moved to approve the September 4, 2019 meeting minutes as amended. Stewart Berlocher seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### Public Input

There was no public input.

**Former Business****a. Update on Planting Species from Southern Climates**

Kevin Sanderson said that he had been researching nurseries in southern climates to locate nurseries that have species that could be planted in Urbana. He said that he found some in Tennessee. He asked the commission to let him know if they found any. Stewart Berlocher suggested that the City ask for the seed origins to make sure the trees actually originated from the southern climates. Kevin Sanderson was having difficulty obtaining information from nurseries in Missouri.

Stewart Berlocher suggested Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee nurseries as possible sources. Carol Augspurger said that nurseries in Cincinnati would be considered southern climates.

Michael Stevenson said he would stop by some nurseries when he traveled to Cincinnati. Kevin Sanderson recommended looking for a nursery with more than 50 acres. Jackson Bird suggested asking the nursery for a catalog.

Marshall Bellville said that the City had grown trees to add to the City's urban forest in an area south of Meadowbrook Park. He noted that it was labor intensive. Stewart Berlocher suggested starting a volunteer effort to grow City trees locally.

Carol Augspurger thanked Kevin Sanderson for his efforts and encouraged him to continue looking for southern species of trees.

**b. Fall Tree Planting Update**

Kevin Sanderson stated that the fall planting was completed November 4. He added that no water bags were used since the bags would likely freeze and break. Carol Augspurger asked why only 83 out of 100 sites were planted. Kevin Sanderson said that 85 were planted, but the remaining species were better suited for spring planting.

Jackson Bird asked if the cost of water bags had increased. Kevin Sanderson said that the gator watering bags were about \$17 to \$18 per bag. He noted that the cost came from the tree planting budget. Bridget McGill asked if the homeowner could pay for the bag. Kevin Sanderson said that the homeowner might not water the tree if the City did not provide the water bag. He recommended that newly planted trees receive five to seven gallons of water every five days for every one and a half inches of the trunk diameter.

**c. 406 W. Iowa Sweetgum Status**

Kevin Sanderson reported that the sweetgum located at 406 West Iowa was in moderate failure. He said that it would be added to the list of trees scheduled for removal in the upcoming tree and stump removal contract. He said that the sweetgum tree would be the first tree to be removed when the contract work would begin this winter.

**New Business****a. Tree Deserts**

Carol Augspurger discussed the lack of City trees in some areas of Urbana. Kevin Sanderson said that areas with little to no trees were the focus of spring tree planting. He mentioned that East Michigan Avenue was a focus area. Michael Stevenson wondered if some homeowners were not willing to have trees. He mentioned that Stonecreek and Beringer Commons subdivisions and the area west of Lincoln Avenue (Beslin Street from Goodwin Avenue to Wright Street) did not have many trees. Kevin Sanderson said that the primary area for spring tree planting would be between Kinch Street, Florida Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue.

**b. Using Community Groups**

Commission members suggested ways to encourage homeowners to plant trees by pointing out the benefits of trees in neighborhoods. Kevin Sanderson said that he would contact neighborhood associations to encourage tree plantings in their areas. Jackson Bird suggested talking to City Council members to encourage their support.

**c. Coop-Tree Planting Info (Application and Procedure)**

Kevin Sanderson distributed a copy of the application and procedure for participating in the cooperative tree planting program. Carol Augspurger asked if the information could be pushed into areas where more tree plantings were needed. Kevin Sanderson said he could send it to those neighborhoods. Bridget McGill suggested including a discussion about trees increasing the resale value of property when trees were planted.

**d. Most Native/Non-Native Entered into Inventory**

Kevin Sanderson stated that the inventory would be updated as trees were planted.

**e. 2019 Urban Community Forestry Grant Awarded**

Kevin Sanderson distributed the successful application for the Urban Community Forestry Grant to show how the grant monies would be spent. He said that most costs would be labor. He thanked Michael Brunk for his encouragement as Kevin prepared the grant application. He mentioned that letters from Carol Augspurger, Michael Stevenson and Michael Brunk were very helpful. He noted that most of the grant money would be used to replace 153 trees destroyed by the tornado in southwest Urbana and the Emerald Ash Borer. Marshall Bellville asked if the City could plant in areas considered tree deserts without asking homeowners. Kevin Sanderson said the City preferred to plant where trees were removed and where new tree locations were requested. Jackson Bird said that the danger of planting trees where they were not wanted was that the trees might not receive adequate care. Carol Augspurger asked if City staff could water the newly planted trees. Kevin Sanderson said that the City did not have the staff to efficiently water all of the newly planted trees.

Carol Augspurger asked about the Rosecrans/Rotary Club donation. Kevin Sanderson said that money had not been spent yet, but it could be used to plant in areas considered tree deserts.

**f. Winter Contract Removal List**

Kevin Sanderson provided the list of tree removals for the winter contract. Jackson Bird asked if the silver maple tree on Webber Street could be added to the list. Kevin Sanderson said that the list was open and additional removals could be included. Stewart Berlocher asked if the removals would be replaced with native trees. Kevin Sanderson said that the City would replace as many as possible with native trees. Carol Augspurger asked if the City had completed the removal of infected ash trees. Kevin Sanderson said that they had for the most part. He said that the problem currently impacting the City's forest was bacterial leaf scorch, which was affecting pin oak and red oak trees.

Jackson Bird asked if the City had the authority to remove private trees. He said that there was a private honey locust tree on High Street between Lynn Street and Webber Street that did not look healthy. Kevin Sanderson said that the City could remove a private tree if it had the potential to create a public safety hazard. Stewart Berlocher mentioned that there was a dead private tree at Race Street and Washington Street that could be a potential hazard.

**g. 2020 Meeting Dates**

Carol Augspurger asked if Kevin Sanderson would talk to Jacob Torres and ask if Mr. Torres was still a Tree Commission member. The Commission approved the calendar for 2020: March 4, 2020, June 3, 2020, September 2, 2020, and December 2, 2020.

All meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Urbana Public Works Department, 706 South Glover Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61802.

**Announcement**

Stewart Berlocher stated that he had an opportunity to look at a cross-section of a 350-year-old bur oak that was removed from AMBUCS Park. He said that it was part of the Big Grove forest. He said that he believed that there were some additional trees from the original Big Grove forest located along the Dart parking lot on Main Street.

**Adjournment**

Michael Stevenson made a motion to adjourn, Bridget McGill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

The next meeting of the Urbana Tree Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Urbana Public Works Department, 706 South Glover Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61802

Barbara Stiehl  
Temporary Recording Secretary  
Urbana Tree Commission