

**City of Urbana, Illinois**

**Minutes of the Urbana Tree Commission Meeting**  
**Public Works Engineering Conference Room**  
**706 S. Glover Ave.**  
**Urbana, IL 61802**

**Wednesday, December 7, 2016**  
**1:30 p.m.**

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**Members Present:** Carol Augspurger (acting Chair), Barbara Anderson, Stewart Berlocher, Derek Liebert, Michael Stevenson

**Members Absent:** Jackson Bird, Chair Jeff Dawson, Darin Eastburn

**Staff Present:** Michael Brunk (City of Urbana Arborist), Leslie Cross

**Others Present:** Janet Macomber

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. Roll call was taken.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Michael Stevenson moved to approve the agenda for the September 7, 2106 meeting. Stewart Berlocher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Public Input**

There was no public input.

**Former Business**

**a. Request from Resident to remove Pin Oak Tree at 301 W. Oregon St.**

The request of an approval to remove a City owned Pin Oak tree by resident Janet Macomber had been tabled at the previous Commission meeting and was revisited. At the previous meeting, the permit was denied by the City Arborist because the tree was deemed healthy with no other concerns. Macomber asked the Commission reconsider their decision because of potential future damage to her sewer system. Macomber also emphasized that the removal would be at her expense. The Commission discussed examples of past removal of trees and the reasoning for those removals and denials of similar tree problems. Brunk restated that the main issue would be the precedent it could set if the removal permit was approved.

Anderson moved to approve the tree removal permit. Stevenson seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Anderson and Stevenson voted aye. Augspurger and Berlocher voted no. The motion failed.

**b. EAB Ash Removal Update**

Brunk reported that out of 189 ash trees on city parkways, that 114 marked as removal as of September 2016. He stated that 32 of those trees are being treated with 19 of them by residents and 13 by City staff and 43 trees listed in the inventory at varying stages of health with no EAB. Additionally, Staff has been asked to put together report for City leaders regarding cost to citizens to treat or facility treatment of private trees on their own. Bruce Cubberley would be heading this study. Brunk has estimated up to 50 private trees could be healthy enough to treat if treatment were to start in coming summer. Brunk acknowledged that new funding would be necessary for the program. Additionally, Brunk stated that the City has been struggling to cover large disposal fees for the trees that have been removed and cost reductions in other arbor programs are being studying to help find disposal funds.

**New Business**

**a. 2017 Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates were approved as followed: Mondays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm on March 6, 2017, September 11, 2017 and December 4, 2017.

**b. Legacy Tree Nominations**

- 1) The Commission was presented with a legacy tree nomination for two American Hophornbeam trees located at 204 W Washington Street and 206 W Washington Street.

Berlocher moved to recommend approval, Stevenson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously in favor by a voice vote.

- 2) The Commission was presented with a legacy tree nomination for a Chinese Chestnut tree located at 1402 E Florida Avenue.

Stevenson moved to recommend approval, Berlocher seconded, and the motion carried unanimously in favor by a voice vote.

- 3) The Commission was presented with three legacy tree nominations all of which were located at 1904 E Main Street as followed:

- a. 66.5" dbh Bur Oak

Discussion tabled until next meeting when the property line of the tree is determined.

- b. 41.5" dbh Chinkapin Oak

Berlocher moved to recommend approval, Stevenson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously in favor by a voice vote.

c. 61” Hackberry

Berlocher moved to recommend approval, Anderson seconded, and the motion carried by a voice vote with 3 ayes and 1 no.

**c. Proposed Legacy Tree Ordinance Change**

Brunk presented a draft of the proposed Legacy Tree Ordinance change at Sec. 25-71(2) revising the section item to read “A condition assessment to ensure the tree is in ~~good~~fair or better condition and assess tree safety;”.

Stevenson moved for approval to send proposed Legacy Tree Ordinance Change to City Council. Berlocher seconded, and the motion carried unanimously in favor by a voice vote.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Leslie P. Cross, Recording Secretary  
Urbana Tree Commission