



**CITY OF URBANA  
TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING**

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**DATE:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
**TIME:** 1:30 PM  
**PLACE:** 706 South Glover Avenue Urbana, IL 61802

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**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Stewart Berlocher, Michael Stevenson, Bridget McGill, Alex Julius, Scott Dossett, Paul D’Agostino

**Members Absent:** Carol Augspurger

**Others Present:** Kevin Sanderson

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Michael Stevenson called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Roll call was taken. A Quorum of Members was present.

**B. Changes to the Agenda**

Kevin Sanderson suggested moving Announcements up to “B. Changes to the Agenda”. There were no objections.

**Announcements**

**1. Vacant seat appointment Paul D’Agostino**

Kevin introduced Paul D’Agostino who filled the vacant seat for the Tree Commission. Paul gave a brief background of his former work. The rest of the commission introduced themselves to Paul & let him know what they do.

**C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**1. September 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Alex Julius motioned to approve the minutes, Scott Dossett seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

**D. Public Input**

none

**E. Unfinished Business**

**1. Updated Revision Shrub List**

The final draft of screening plants will be added to the trees list that was approved at a prior meeting. The finalized list of plants & trees will be part of the MOPs Act for City Engineering and for Community Development’s zoning ordinance.

There was a discussion about the Ilex vomitoria & the possibility of its berries being poisonous to humans. Stewart will look into this. Ilex vomitoria will stay on the list for now.

There was a question about Boxwood blight. It is a concern in Northern Illinois, but Kevin said that he has checked with the U of I and it is not a problem around here. Blight is a fungus.

## **F. Reports of City Officials and Staff and Reports of Committees**

### **1. Winter removal list – Kevin Sanderson**

The City is now using OpenGov Procurement for its bids. The 23/24 contract for tree and stump removal is currently out for bid. The bid leaves a lot open as to if the City can do part of the work and let the company do the bigger aspects of the removals. There is a requirement to have 1 ISA certified person within the business that receives the bid.

The U of I is interested in some of the Red Oaks for slab wood to be lumbered.

The budget for this project is \$55,000. This will cover about 25-26 trees.

Some of the trees on the list are from the Derecho. Some have reached their life expectancy.

Homer Tree Service can do a list like this in just a few days because they have multiple crews. For other contractors it would take 3-4 weeks.

Property owners are sent a letter as notification of tree removals. If a street has to be completely shut down, the City needs to do a Public Release & also let MTD know.

Mike suggested that while these trees are being taken down, it could be video taped for outreach & education on how trees are taken down & why we need to plant new trees to replace ones that are removed.

### **2. June 2023 Derecho numbers**

Kevin supplied a few reports from the City's work order system, Lucity. There were about 40 calls on June 29th and about 35 calls on June 30th. The Saturday following the Derecho, Public Works started 12 hour shifts for 2 straight weeks for clean-up. For the entire Derecho clean up, the final # came to over \$100,000; this includes labor overtime hours, equipment usage, LRC disposal fees, & Transfer Station fees.

There were 31 trees that were a complete loss due to the storm.

The City was not liable (unless previous known issues before the storm) for any damage. The City's insurance company said it all falls under "Act of God".

## **G. New Business**

### **1. Approve 2024 meeting dates: Mar. 6, June 5, Sept. 4, Dec. 4**

Stewart Berlocher motioned to approve the 2024 meeting dates, Alex Julius seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

## **H. Announcements**

### **1. Vacant seat appointment Paul D'Agostino**

This item was moved to "B. Changes to the Agenda".

**I. Future Topics**

Can a commissioner join the meeting virtually? Are there OMA regulations? It was mentioned that the Tree Commission by-laws were changed in February 2023.

**J. Adjournment**

Stewart Berlocher motioned to adjourn the meeting, Alex Julius seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm.