



CITY OF URBANA TREE COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2026
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: 706 South Glover Avenue Urbana, IL 61802

MINUTES

Members Present: Carol Augspurger, Stewart Berlocher, Paul D'Agostino, Elise Doody-Jones, Scott Dossett (via video), Justin Vozzo (via telephone)

Members Absent: Alex Julius

Others Present: Kevin Sanderson, Vince Gustafson, Preston Lewis

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

Carol Augspurger called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. Roll call was taken. A Quorum of Members was present.

B. Changes to the Agenda

none

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. December 3, 2025 meeting minutes

Scott Dossett motioned to approve the minutes, Paul D'Agostino seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

D. Public Input

Natalie Leavenworth

704 E. Oregon Street

Expressed concern over multiple tree removals in her neighborhood. Most removals remained from major storm in July 2024. Major structure damage.

Kevin Sanderson brought up Natalie's concern since she was unable to attend the meeting. Kevin said that the trees that were removed will be replaced probably next year. Kevin will follow-up with Natalie regarding the planting of new trees.

E. Unfinished Business

1. Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits – Kevin Sanderson

Kevin looked into the City of Evanston's online permits per Paul's suggestion. The permits are still in the works with the City's Engineering Department and Vince [Public Works Director]. The existing three permits will become one.

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

1. City Arborist – Vince Gustafson

Vince Gustafson introduced himself as the new Public Works Director. Since 2018-2019, 3 previous jobs were wrapped into one, which is Kevin's current job. It has been approved to reinstate the City Arborist as a position and still have the Arbor/Landscape Supervisor as a separate position. The City Arborist position has been posted externally, and candidates are being reviewed now, with interviews being in the next week. The new City Arborist will be the staff representative of the Tree Commission.

2. 2026 Spring Planting Sites – Kevin Sanderson

The Spring Plantings will be done by City staff. There are 64 replacement sites, 3 co-op tree planting sites, 3 planting sites that are for Engineering projects.

3. 2026 Donation Planting Sites – Kevin Sanderson

A few donation plantings were done this spring. Last fall didn't have good participation. This fall Kevin would like to do about 75 donation plantings. These will be done by a contractor. The sites are picked; it's just a matter of whether the residents want it or not. These are going in low-income areas and Community Development target zones. The funds are from an anonymous donation 4 years ago.

G. New Business

1. 50th Tree City Arbor Foundation Recognition

Presenting the 50th year Tree City plaque to the City Council and the Mayor was discussed. It will be sometime in April when the plaque and flags will be received. It was suggested to work with the mayoral staff to find out an appropriate meeting to do this at.

H. Announcements

1. Arbor Day April 24th, at Victory Park on East Green Street

Kevin said this will be held at the pavilion from 10:30 am – 12:10 pm.

Stewart said that his talk on the Big Grove is confirmed to happen in the next few months at the Library.

Stewart also announced that he will be resigning from the Tree Commission after this meeting. He will try to find his replacement. A discussion followed regarding possible replacements for Stewart.

Paul D'Agostino motioned to recognize Stewart's contributions [to the Tree Commission], Scott Dossett seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote.

I. Future Topics

update on Right-of-Way (ROW) permits

J. Adjournment

Scott Dossett motioned to adjourn the meeting, Paul D'Agostino seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm.