

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

A meeting of the Urban Forestry Council took place on Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Those in attendance included Chair Mike Smith, Committee Members John Steffens, Bill Davit, Tom Johnson, Jim Johnson, Josh Kresse, and Franz Mayer; and Parks Horticulturalist/Arborist and Director of Parks and Recreation/Community Forestry Manager Darren Dunkle. Members not present include April Murdoch.

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting To Order – Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Minutes – Committee Member Smith motioned and Committee Member Steffens seconded to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Agenda Item #4: Communications – Chairperson Smith introduced new committee member Tom Johnson.

Agenda Item #5: Parks Report

a. Tree Trimming and Removal – Mr. Wargo reported the following:

- Three trees were removed from the Heritage Transportation Park;
- Fifteen trees were removed from the Riverfront Trail;
- Six trees were removed from Lakeview Park;
- One tree was removed from Hillermann Park - Lions Lake area;
- Ten trees were removed from Hillermann Park - Fairgrounds;
- One tree was removed from Hillermann Park – Valley area;
- Seven trees were removed from Main Park;
- Two trees were removed from Optimist Park;
- One tree was removed from McLaughlin Park;
- Seven trees were pruned at Krog Park;
- Ten trees were pruned at Lakeview Park;
- Two trees were pruned at Main Park;
- Thirty Three trees were pruned at Rennick Riverfront Park.

b. Tree Replacements – Mr. Wargo reported the following:

- Five trees (3 Tulip and 2 Bur Oaks) are scheduled to be replaced at Hillermann Park – Fairgrounds;

- Seven trees (5 Hemlocks and 2 White Pines) are scheduled to be replaced at the Angel of Hope Garden;
 - Eleven trees (1 Swamp White Oak, 1 Red Maple, 3 Redbud, 2 Northern Red Oak, 1 Tulip, and 3 Bald Cypress) are to be replaced at Main Park;
 - One tree (1 Red Maple) is to be replaced at Hillermann Park – All Abilities Playground;
 - Two trees (2 Red Bud) are to be replaced at Hillermann Park – Admin./Maint. Bldg.;
 - Four trees (2 Swamp White Oak and 2 River Birch) are to be replaced at the Rennick Riverfront Park.
- c. Committee Re-Appointments – Mr. Dunkle reported that both Josh Kresse and April Murdoch’s terms were set to expire at the end of the month. Mr. Kresse stated that he would like to be re-appointed. Chairman Smith stated that he would contact Ms. Murdoch to see if she would be interested in being re-appointed.
- d. Meeting Quorums – Mr. Dunkle reminded the committee that at least half (3) of the committee’s voting members would have to be present to conduct a meeting. The voting members of the Committee include Mike Smith, Tom Johnson, John Steffens, April Murdoch, Bill Davit, and Josh Kresse.

Agenda Item #6: Council Report – None.

Agenda Item #7: Old Business

- a) Plant an Oak Tree Campaign –
- Chairman Smith reported that the committee would be having a booth at the Earth Day/Arbor Day Event to hand out literature and educate the public on urban forestry efforts etc. He further stated that it was originally planned to purchase various Oak tree seedlings from the Department of Conservation to give away at the event, however, that is not happening now and Hillermann’s will be giving out 100 Swamp White Oak seedlings. Mr. Dunkle stated that the Parks and Recreation Department spoke to the Department of Conservation in regards to purchasing the seedlings; however, they could not guarantee their arrival in time for the event. Mr. Dunkle also informed the committee, that if they wanted to purchase items such as trees or place fliers in the water bills etc., they would need to officially ask for funds during the budget planning process which will begin in April.
 - Mr. Dunkle reported that staff had spoken to the Washington In Bloom Committee in regards to the water bill mailer and they have graciously agreed to pay the cost of printing for a mailer that would include information on the Earth Day/Arbor Day Event and the Oak Tree Campaign on one side, with Yard of the Month and the 100 Pollinator Garden Challenge on the other side.
 - Mr. Dunkle asked for further clarification as to what the Committee wanted to gain or what was their goal with the Oak Tree Campaign, as he wanted to make sure that

everyone was on the same page and that there was a clear understanding and mission. Chairman Smith stated that the main reason for the campaign is to educate the community on the benefits of Oak Trees. Mr. Dunkle then asked how or what methods the committee was looking to use to educate the public, as that would determine if Council approval would be required. Chairman Smith stated that they would like to continue to educate through having a booth at the Earth Day/Arbor Day Event, Water bill mailing, Press Releases, Face Book, E-Mail, and on the City's website. Further discussion took place in regards to speaking to children at the Library.

- b) Camp Street Bridge Planting – Mr. Dunkle reported that he had spoken to the new City Engineer and Administration in regards to the proposed planting project and was informed that the plan would need to be tabled for now, as they would need more time to review and assess the need for the proposed planting project as this was the first that they had heard of any such plan. Mr. Dunkle further stated this could take some time as there were other projects that were more time sensitive.
- c) Water Tower Scout Project – Chairman Smith reported that he and Committee Member Mayer had been working with the Boy Scout about the project. He further stated that they had been exploring options on the informational tags and that the size of the tags could present an issue in comparison with the size of the post. Discussion followed in regards to either buying smaller tags or increasing the post size. Committee Member Mayer stated that the post size could be increased as an order had not been placed at this time.

Agenda Item #8: New Business

- a. EAB Management Plan – Mr. Dunkle reported that the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) within the past year has been confirmed in the City of St. Louis, St. Charles County (Lake St. Louis), and St. Louis County (Creve Coeur and Maryland Heights). This puts the confirmed outbreak within 50 miles of Washington. He further stated that although it has not been detected in Washington or Franklin County, it is predicted to be found in 2016 or 2017. In all probability it is likely here already but at low population levels.

As such, it is necessary for the City to develop an effective, responsible and financially viable approach to manage the spread of EAB. The proposed plan was developed using the guiding principles that: 1) Ensures Public Safety and minimizes liability; 2) Mitigates the loss of significant high value Ash trees; 3) Maintains the City's tree canopy; and 4) Provides public education and awareness.

Mr. Dunkle stated that there were several management options such as: 1) Do nothing; 2) Perform selective removal; 3) Perform selective treatment; 4) Monitor and assess on an ongoing basis then remove as necessary; and 5) Total removal. Mr. Dunkle went on to state that it is staff's recommendation that the City adopt a balanced or "selective" management approach, which would allow for the preservation of many of the high value trees, while preemptively removing lower quality trees that will eventually pose a hazard to the public.

Mr. Dunkle stated that it is unknown to how many Ash trees there are within the City or even located on public property. However, the 2007 Tree Inventory identified 108 Ash trees within nine public park sites, representing about 9% of the total tree canopy. He further stated that since the 2007 Tree Inventory was not a complete inventory of all City parks and public properties, a new inventory would need to be conducted to determine the exact amount of Ash Trees, as well as other trees within the City's parks and public properties. He stated that staff would look into opportunities to apply for a T.R.I.M. grant through the Missouri Department of Conservation to pay a portion of the inventory.

Committee Member Steffens motioned and Committee Member Kresse seconded to support staff's recommendation to City Council for their review, consideration and adoption of the EAB Management Plan. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

- b. Miller-Post Nature Reserve Update – Mr. Dunkle reported that staff has walked the property several times and has identified potential trail routes and locations. As time and weather allows, staff will begin clearing the identified trail routes and start the placement of the compost trails.
- c. Riverfront West Trail Update – Mr. Dunkle reported that staff is currently working to finalize trail alignments and safety concerns etc. Once plans have been finalized and funding sources identified and secured, the City would move forward on the actual trail construction.

Agenda Item #9: Next Meeting – March 16, 2016

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment – **Committee Member Steffens motioned and Chairman Smith seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

MINUTES SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL