

**MUNCIE URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 15, 2024**

**Opening**

The regular meeting of the Muncie Urban Forestry Committee was called to order at 1:00 on May 15 2024. The meeting took place in the Mayor's Conference Room.

**Attendance**

*Voting members present:* Malcolm Cairns, James Edwards, Rick Zeigler Carl Malone, Ruby Morris, Austin Weiland

*Absent:* Dustin Clark, Jon Warfel, Adam Berland

*Non-voting attendees:* Kellie McClellan

**Public comments:** None

**Approval of minutes:** Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

**Arbor Day Celebration**

James Edwards reported that everything went smoothly. Over 720 people attended (about the same as last year), and the committee finished "in the black." James will give a final report after a final Arbor Day subcommittee meeting is held in the coming weeks.

**Urban Forester Report**

8 elm trees were planted on West Charles Street, dead trees and three stumps were removed from Tuhey Park, and three other trees were contracted for removal. Also, 7 trees were delivered to the Boys and Girls Club, along with pre-dug holes. Kellie took a CPR/first aid class and is proceeding to take steps to maintain her arborist certification.

**Recent Special Events**

Malcolm shared his idea that the Urban Forestry committee should send out periodic articles outlining recent activities the Urban Forester has undertaken. It was suggested to be mailed to city govt. workers, neighborhood associations, park board members, the Muncie Journal, and the Muncie Star-Press. The board unanimously agreed that this was an excellent idea.

**Subdivision Tree Ordinance**

Malcolm continues to follow up on this, which has had a setback since our champion on the County Commission(??) has left that position.

**Rooted in Community Grant**

No new information has been received regarding the Rooted in Community grant and how it will be handled.

### **Meeting with Mayor Ridenour**

Malcolm and Rick met with Mayor Ridenour last week and discussed:

- 1) raising the salary of the Urban Forester and Asst. to the Urban Forester, for which the Zeigler Foundation would contribute half of each salary;
- 2) the need to make sure the Urban Forester and Asst. Urban Forester spend 90% or more of their time on Urban Forestry related matters; and
- 3) the need to establish a “tree planting” fund under the supervision of the Urban Forester. Mr. Zeigler proposed that if the city contributed to this fund, the Zeigler Foundation would do likewise. A figure of \$20,000 was suggested to start this fund.

Mayor Ridenour seemed favorable disposed to all three proposals (indeed, both Kellie and the to-be-appointed Assistant have already or will receive 10% raises at a minimum). He asked that a written agreement outlining these points be drawn up. Rick Zeigler has done so and submitted it to the Mayor last week.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM. The next general meeting will at 1:00 on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes submitted by: Rick Zeigler