

# **Muncie Urban Forestry Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

August 21, 2024

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Muncie Urban Forestry Committee was called to order at 1:00 on August 21, 2024. The meeting took place in the Mayor's Conference Room.

### **Attendance**

*Voting members present:* Adam Berland, Malcolm Cairns, James Edwards, Austin Weiland, Rick Zeigler

*Absent:* Dustin Clark, Carl Malone, Jon Warfel

*Non-voting attendees:* Kellie McClellan

**Public comments:** None

**Approval of minutes:** None

### **Urban Forester Report**

- Cleaning up limbs from storms
- Contracted a few street and park trees
- Pruning, mulching, grinding stumps, watering.
- Two issues have complicated things. First, the limited weekly disposal allowance means Kellie needs to keep a close eye on what she brings to dispose, and some weeks she has met her limit on Monday. Second, watering has been an issue because she shares a watering truck that is regularly used for spraying off basketball courts, shelters, etc.
- The 1000 Trees plantings south of Main St. were supposed to be watered by Prairie Creek staff, but they had not hired anybody to do that work while Dustin was off, and it is not known if they have done any watering at this point. Kellie has watered the trees she could locate north of Main St., but we do not know the locations of all trees in the 1000 Trees program because Dustin has not responded to requests for a complete list of planting sites.

### **New business**

- Meeting attendance: We have had an issue with committee members failing to attend meetings. Committee members or their supervisors will be contacted to ask that they attend meetings regularly or be replaced.

- US Forest Service Grant: To our knowledge, no agreement has been signed to begin the grant activities. The committee has expressed interest in being involved and receiving updates on this grant, but the committee has not been involved to date.
- Planning Urban Forester activities:
  - The committee discussed a target of planting approximately 100 street trees each year to ensure consistent provision of street tree benefits over the long term.
  - Kellie will compile a list of equipment that is needed to keep trees adequately watered.
  - An ongoing concern is keeping the tree inventory updated. We did not receive a detailed accounting of 1000 Trees planting sites, and Kellie is not typically informed when trees are removed by the Street Department.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm by Malcolm Cairns. The next general meeting will be at 1:00 on September 18.

Minutes submitted by: Adam Berland