

Muncie Urban Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2024

Opening

The regular meeting of the Muncie Urban Forestry Committee was called to order at 1:00 on November 20, 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, Ruby Morris, Jon Warfel

Non-voting attendees: Kellie McClellan

Public comments: None

Approval of minutes: Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Chairperson Report

- Malcolm thanked Kellie for planting 22 trees last week with help from MDCB volunteers. 7 on High St between Jackson and Adams, and 15 on S College between Jackson and White River Blvd.
- Malcolm compiled a document with photos of Urban Forestry activities throughout the year to highlight the important work that has been done, and the engagement with lots of community groups. This will be shared with stakeholders and on social media.
- Malcolm visited Tree Lafayette to learn about their activities. They planted about 300 trees last year as a nonprofit organization. Volunteers are trained to prune and water trees. Eleven people with pickup trucks are given water tanks, allowing them to water 5,300 trees in the past year.
 - Based on the active volunteer efforts of Tree Lafayette, Malcolm thinks we could expand our volunteer opportunities here. James mentioned that the IDNR Community Tree Steward Program could be worth pursuing as a way to facilitate volunteer training and action.

Urban Forester Report

- Kellie is working on Tree City USA recertification on top of her regular duties.

New business

- Discussion of planning for the Arbor Day celebration in the spring
- Discussion of tree planting strategies
- There are plans to redo the streetscape along University from BSU to downtown (current plans are looking at the Village to Reserve). This will impact mature trees in the public right-of-way.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm by Malcolm Cairns. The next general meeting will be at 1:00 on December 18.

Minutes submitted by: Adam Berland