

Muncie Urban Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2024

Opening

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

Attendance

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

Absent: Carl Malone

Non-voting attendees: Kellie McClellan

Public comments: None

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

Chairperson Report

- Meeting with Mayor Ridenour
 - Rick and Malcolm met with the Mayor to discuss the possibility of establishing a fund at CEP for Urban Forestry to plant trees in the community, pending the City acquiring the tree watering equipment that was previously agreed to. The urban forester would select the trees to be planted under this program. The Mayor was agreeable to this.
 - The UF Committee approved this by unanimous vote, and Rick will now take it back to CEP for their approval.

Urban Forester Report

- Kellie submitted our recertification for Tree City USA
- She is contracting some removals, including 3005 W University and 1312 W North St
- 3 city trees have been badly topped. The city is sending cease and desist letters to those who were responsible
- Kellie accepted a new position with the Parks Department. The city is hoping to replace her with a certified arborist

New business

- Introduction of new committee member: David Heilman
- Arbor Day planning (Edwards)
 - Minnetrista is helping with planning. James would like other people to join in helping
- 812 Coalition tree planting (Weiland)
 - They are looking for support in planting trees in the neighborhood. Austin or others may help ensure trees are planted correctly.
- Community and tree planting (Berland)
 - Brief discussion of Adam's 'homework' assignment to summarize literature on tree planting programs and community perceptions/outcomes. These notes were shared with the meeting agenda
 - Shared examples of tree tags that other cities hang on the trees they plant
- General discussion of ongoing projects in the community that impact trees

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm by Malcolm Cairns. The next general meeting will be at 1:00 on February 19.

Minutes submitted by: Adam Berland