

# **Muncie Urban Forestry Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

February 19, 2024

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Muncie Urban Forestry Committee was called to order at 1:00 on February 19, 2024. The meeting took place in the Mayor's Conference Room.

### **Attendance**

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

*Absent:*

*Non-voting attendees:* Kellie McClellan, Fred Stewart, Rachel Weiland

**Public comments:** Rachel Weiland spoke as a representative of the 8-12 Coalition's Beautification Board. They are advocating for trees on the south side to improve quality of life in the 8-12 and Industry neighborhoods, and they plan to facilitate micro-employment for individuals who will plant and care for trees. Rachel is hoping to gather information about how the city plants trees (what species and where) to improve the chances of success for adding trees in the 8-12 and Industry neighborhoods.

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

### **Urban Forester Report**

- Trees contracted for safety reasons, and Fred picked them up
- Contacted a company doing tree work without a license
- Addressed a tree that had fallen on power lines
- ESRI Field Maps set up on Fred's phone to view/update the city tree inventory
- Fred is working on his CDL, has ordered the study guide for arborist certification, and is learning about safety protocols to keep the job safe
- TreeCity USA renewal was approved by the Arbor Day Foundation
- Carl is hiring someone to water recently planted trees over the summer (2-3 days per week, especially during dry periods)

### **New business**

- Selection of Committee Chairperson and Secretary
  - Malcolm will continue as chairperson
  - Austin will be the secretary moving forward
- Introduction of new Urban Forester, Fred Stewart

- Assistant urban forester
  - The position has not been filled yet, as Parks has been busy with several simultaneous hires
- Watering trailer and Zeigler Foundation/CEP tree fund update
  - New watering trailer arrived. As agreed with the Mayor, CEP is establishing a \$10,000 fund that the urban forester can draw upon for tree planting. This will complement the trees that we already plant with I&M funds
- Arbor Day celebration update (April 26, 9-1 at Minnetrista)
  - The Arbor Day committee has been working on details for funding, refreshments, raffle items, and tree giveaways
  - Past events have had budgets around \$6,000 and attract 700-900 people on average, and about 3,000 saplings have been given away overall
- Tree tags for Muncie Urban Forestry installations
  - We currently put a tag on doors before trees are planted in front of a property. David volunteered to sketch up a tag we could hang on a tree to communicate that a tree was planted by Muncie Urban Forestry

## **Adjournment**

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

Minutes submitted by: Adam Berland