

MUNCIE URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2024

Opening

The regular meeting of the Muncie Urban Forestry Committee was called to order at 1:00 on April 17, 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 March meeting were approved.

Arbor Day Celebration Update:

James Edwards reported that everything is proceeding smoothly and they are now focused on logistics (communication with the involved parties, getting supplies, etc.). Tables for non-profits will be present. They are anticipating 700+ attendees and the distribution of 1000+ saplings. The Dept. of Agriculture's "Woods on Wheels" truck will also be present. It was noted that, for next year, there needs to be discussion on how best to involve for-profit businesses that are interested in participating. Malcolm notified the State DNR of our celebration as it was not on their event calendar.

Muncie Central Civics Day Tree Planting

Under the direction of Allen Kidd, a class at Muncie Central is planting trees as part of the Civics Day event at the school. It was suggested that, in addition to the planned saplings, 3 larger trees be provided to them as well.

Muncie Boys and Girls Club Tree Planting

With a grant from the Lilly Foundation, the Muncie Boys and Girls Club (and other statewide Boys and Girls Clubs) are holding a Day of Service Tree Planting on May 9th. A motion was made and passed that we assist with this effort to the extent possible. Various possible planting locations were discussed.

Urban Forester Report

Brief mention was made of future tree plantings to take place at West Charles and South College. More extensive discussion took place over possible plantings in Whitely on Central Boulevard. Rick Zeigler emphasized that, before proceeding, we need to make sure of neighbor buy-in as such plantings made previously (by Community Enhancement Projects) were

destroyed. The problems with the plantings along the new Riverside Trail were discussed. Malcolm has met with David Heilman of Flatland so that they, as the general contractor, were aware of plantings that violated various ordinances, spacing requirements, etc. Mr. Heilman is to reply to us by the next UF meeting.

Storer Estates Tree Planting

Malcolm and others expressed continued frustration in finding out who is responsible for maintaining the trees planted in the Storer Estates subdivision.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM. The next general meeting will at 1:00 on May 15.

Minutes submitted by: Rick Zeigler