

Muncie Urban Forestry Minutes

April 11, 2011

Present: Cassie Banning, Matt Bailey, Ron Spangler, Tom Smith, Jim Wingate, Judy Campbell, Jason Donati, Jim Reese, Eric Gillette, Kellie McClellan, Brad Bookout, guest.

Opening: President Cassie called the meeting to order at 3:03pm. A quorum was met. The minutes of the March meeting were approved, (motion made by Tom S. and seconded by Judy C.)

Urban Forester's Report: Ground out stumps around the County Building and plan to plant 12 trees on the High St. and Washington St. sides this spring. Trees to be planted in front of YWCA and on McGalliard Rd. U/F will be replacing some trees along Barr Rd. by the Mall. IDNR grant money will be used for these trees.

U/F gets to plant 60 trees, and edit and reprint 6,000 copies of the Citizens Tree Guide by June of 2012 with the grant monies. A contract has been made to remove or prune 24 trees. There are currently 29 licensed tree professionals in Muncie and will be included on the Web site.

CD Director Connie Gregory and Tom Parker said that CDBG money can only be used to remove hazard trees and plant trees in Thomas, Heekin and McCulloch Parks. The Main Street project will not be discussed until after more work is done and closer to planting.

Plans are under way for the Arbor Day Festival to be held on April 30th at Westside Park. Eric Gillette will be donating another tree this year and his crew will be giving a tree-climbing and pruning demonstration. Tree give-away to the public.

In the process of transplanting trees from downtown to McCulloch Park, and also building an area there to dump chips. Helped write an Indiana-American Water grant for trees at Prairie Creek.

New Business: Brad Bookout brought an update on the McGalliard Rd. tree planting project. Bids came in between \$3,000 and \$4,200 for lights, trees and other equipment. Committee was glad to get trees through the U/F grant. Indiana Steel and Wire is under demolition and Mayor wants a "Green" effort at this eastern gateway location and is requesting U/F input at a later date. The old Chevrolet-Muncie site also is to be a "Green" site.

Tom Smith talked to Mark Slusher, Storm Mgmt, about updating a plan and he wants to work with us.

MDCB wants the memorial tree program to continue and would like to partner with U/F. Maintenance is one of the issues. Jason and Jim W. will be working on this. Matt spoke with city attorney for a disclaimer for permission to plant a tree on private property.

Meeting adjourned at 4pm. Next meeting: May 9, 2011 at 3pm in City Hall.