

Urban Forest Committee
MEETING MINUTES – March 20, 2019
Administrative Services III, Conference Room 301
9:00 – 10:00 AM

Attendees: Jessie Askew Stephanie Jeffries Zach Manor
 Gary Blank David Josephus Tom Skolnicki
 Alan Daeke Sarah Ketchem Mark Weathington
 Jeff Del Pinal Anna Lewandowski Elsa Youngstead

Additional Giacomo Fagan Julieta Sherk
Distribution:

Guests: NA

1. The committee reviewed the charge letter, with additional discussion regarding the origin of the Heritage Tree Committee which has been superseded by this committee.
2. Jeff Del Pinal made a report on recent efforts by Facilities Division staff to address and remove tree hazards along the network of All Campus Paths throughout campus. All Campus Paths are the designation given to the most intensely used paths on campus, therefore the administration asked staff to proactively maintain the trees along these paths, with safety and security in mind.
 - a. Gary Blank asked if anyone counts the growth rings when a tree is removed in order to determine the tree's age.
 - b. Mark Weathington asked if records of tree removals are kept.
3. One of the requirements for Tree Campus USA designation is an annual activity in celebration of Arbor Day.
 - a. Zach Manor shared that City of Raleigh's Arbor Day is not a predetermined date. The Mayor signs a proclamation each year. He advised that it is good practice to have completed your celebration prior to reapplying for Tree Campus USA status each year.
 - b. Steph Jeffries thought that NC State's first celebration could include Tom Wentworth, recently awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine.
 - c. One possible project for this year's event is to plant dogwoods along Centennial Parkway. Late fall (November or December) is ideal for this year. Jude DesNoyer can support the effort on Centennial Campus.
4. The committee reviewed the list of Heritage Trees. Nominations of trees to add to the list can be an agenda item for a meeting in the early fall. If the university continues to maintain 25 trees or groves on the list, up to two more trees can be added.

5. Jeff Del Pinal discussed the current vacancy in the University Arborist position, and plans to add staff. The University Arborist position duties will include managing the crew and the program. A Lead Arborist will be responsible for technical work in the field, supplemented by a second Arborist. Additional staff support will continue to come from a planner/scheduler, augmented by new support from Grounds maintenance staff.
 - a. Steph Jeffries suggested having an undergraduate student help with database updates.
 - b. Mark Weathington said the Provost's program regarding GIS support could extend funding.
 - c. The faculty members discussed the fact that there are not academic programs that train arborists for certification. Courses would need to be identified that would be the basis for a program. There may be opportunities in Horticultural Science now that the department has revamped its programs.

6. Options for communication were discussed. The committee agreed that a web page to archive agendas, meeting minutes, and other documents is a good idea. Facilities Division staff can create a web page.

Action items:

1. *Tom Skolnicki will share the latest Heritage Tree list with the committee.*
2. *Jeff Del Pinal will share the All Campus Path report with the committee.*
3. *Tom Skolnicki to discuss creating a web page with Sally Rau, Carla Davis.*
4. *Jeff Del Pinal to look into the feasibility of documenting tree removals, including a count of the growth rings, species, etc*
5. *Prior to the next meeting, the Arbor Day celebration needs a champion to plan and carry out an event this calendar year.*
6. *All committee members identify nominations for Heritage Tree status, and bring nominations to the next meeting.*

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in late August or early September of 2019. Location to be determined.