



Quincy Tree Commission

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Quincy Tree Commission

Thursday, July 10, 2025

730 Maine, City Hall, council chambers, Quincy, Illinois 62301

MINUTES

Attendance

Members Present: Jan Leinbach (chair), Corrine Duryea (vice chair), Rome Frericks, Ed Holthaus, Jamie Russell, Candy Scott, John Scott, Beth Young,

Members Absent: Bob Terstriep

City Staff Present: Jeffrey Conte, Jason Parrott, David Adam

Vacant: 1

Leinbach calls the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Parrott explains to the commission that minutes from previous meetings are not yet available because he has been shorthanded in his department.

Parrott introduces David Adam and Garrett Drew, who started working in the Planning and Development Department on July 7. He also notes that Jack Wilson has applied to join the commission.

The commission reviews forestry reports for April, May and June. No trees were planted during those three months, while 47 trees were removed, 54 stumps were removed and 37 trees were trimmed. Thirty-eight of the 47 removed trees were listed as “dead/dying.” Conte says since the city chose to stop treating trees infected by the Emerald ash borer, several trees have died, and others are dying. He says several trees still need to be cut down and expresses hope that forestry can start planting more trees than they are cutting down trees.

Conte updates the commission on the tree nursery at the wastewater treatment plant. He says nine species, recommended by the Morton Arboretum and ranging in height from three inches to about three feet, have been planted. He hopes the trees can be transplanted to city streets in another four or five years.

The commission considers the application of Wilson to be appointed. He’s an electrical engineer for Ameren and the founder of Wilson Tree Farm, which has more than 1,500 trees at 8936 State in Quincy. He says he has experience in grafting trees, pruning trees, growing them from seed and transplanting them. He also has learned techniques to protect trees from animals, test them for dormancy and determining if they are alive or dead. He is 39 years old with a wife and two children.

Frericks makes a motion to recommend Wilson to the commission. Holthaus seconds. Motion unanimously approved. The City Council will vote July 21 on the recommendation.

The commission discusses the voluntary street tree inventory between Fourth and 10th, from Vermont to State, that was coordinated during the summer of 2024 by Amy Lefringhouse with the University of Illinois Extension. Parrott says he recently spoke Lefringhouse, who said she has volunteers willing to conduct another tree inventory, this time from 10th to 16th, from Vermont to State, sometime in late July or August. He hopes a report could be prepared by the date of the next tree commission meeting in October.

Parrott asks the commission if any members would be willing to make a 5-to-10-minute presentation, typically using PowerPoint, before the City Council about what the commission does. Leinbach and Young both express interest. Candy Scott offers to supply photos. Rueter offers to help but doesn't want to go before the City Council. Parrott says the presentation likely would be scheduled for a Monday City Council meeting in mid to late August.

The commission discusses its annual community beautification award. Parrott says Raising Cane's was discussed at the most recent meeting. Leinbach says the back entrance at John Wood Community College is impressive with several native flowers. Frericks said the location of the flowers at JWCC is "kind of out of sight, out of mind."

Frericks makes a motion to give the community beautification award to Raising Cane's. John Scott seconds. Motion unanimously approved.

Parrott says he will contact management at Raising Cane's to set up a time for a presentation in October, noting that past nominees for the award have declined and didn't want recognition. Frericks then makes a motion to alter his previous motion, recommending to offer the award to JWCC if Raising Cane's declines. John Scott seconds. Motion unanimously approved.

The committee discusses the fall tree planting program. Parrott provides a bid sheet from 2024, explaining that costs came in higher for the trees that were sought, and numbers had to be adjusted to stay within the \$17,000 budget. He says he expects a bid to purchase trees would go out in September. He also says trees were sold to the public in 2024 for \$100, up from \$50 in previous years. Parrott says the number of trees sold was down from previous years.

Leinbach says she looked at forestry departments in Springfield, Ill., and Overland Park, Kan., and the lists of approved trees in both cities. She says she is trying to have more diversity in the trees offered in Quincy, mentioning the committee has been trying to stay away from maple trees in recent years. Parrott suggests a special meeting in August to discuss offering various trees. He says the low bid in previous years has come from Leffers Landscaping. He suggests when the bid for trees goes out that the committee ask for more options to be provided in the bid. Some committee members promise to investigate what trees would be ideal for Quincy, while others say they will look into the cost of trees in other cities.

Conte suggests not selling the trees to the public and having the city plant the trees – saving the labor cost. Holthaus says twice as many trees could be planted if the labor cost is eliminated. Leinbach says many of the trees she's seen have been planted too deep, claiming thousands of dollars have been wasted on improperly planted trees and more training is needed to help people plant them properly.

Holthaus asks if Central Services has enough staff to plant the trees. Conte says it's possible, but more training is needed. The committee schedules a special meeting for 1 p.m. Aug. 7 to discuss possible changes to the city's fall tree planting program.

The committee plans to set a date in November for the Arbor Day tree planting. Young makes a motion to plant the tree at the Paul Dennis Complex at 4200 State. Duryea seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Parrott recommends that the date for the Arbor Day tree planting be set during the special Aug. 7 meeting, and that the committee should ask Frericks for the proper tree to be planted and a proper location. Frericks suggests a shade tree near a \$65,000 playground that is to be installed later this year. Wilson recommends a pin oak.

The meeting concludes with a review of the "Right Tree, Right Place" grant from Ameren. Parrott says with some grants, the initial cost of the grant turns out to be more than the grant is worth.

Conte says the forestry department has been putting together a list of ash trees that need to come down. One of the larger bucket trucks has been down for more than a month and will be down for a couple more weeks. He believes taking care of the ash trees will likely need to be contracted out.

Parrott says his office fills out the annual Tree City USA application. The deadline was Dec. 31. Parrott says he believes Quincy is nearing 40 years as a Tree City USA.

Leimbach asks if a record is kept at the city for what kinds of trees are planted and where they are planted. Parrott says no record is kept, which is why the inventory being completed by the volunteer group is so valuable.

With no public comment and no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Holthaus. John Scott seconds. The meeting adjourns at 1:53 p.m.

David Adam
Community Planner and Developer
Commission Secretary
City of Quincy