



Quincy Tree Commission

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Quincy Tree Commission

Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025

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

MINUTES

Attendance

Members Present: Jan Leimbach (chair), Corrine Duryea (vice chair), Rome Frericks, Ed Holthaus, Jaime Russell, Candy Scott, John Scott, Beth Young, Jack Wilson

Members Absent: Bob Terstriep

City Staff Present: Jason Parrott, David Adam

Leimbach calls the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Frericks makes a motion to approve the minutes. Holthaus seconds. Motion unanimously carries.

Parrott begins the main discussion, mentioning the council's recent decision to increase the public bid threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000. A list of about 15 nurseries has been compiled, and the city will reach out to them about the online bid process to get requests for quotes. Parrott says the commission must determine the number of trees to be offered and what kinds of trees will be offered. It also must determine if the \$100 cost per tree, used in 2024, will be unchanged or if a new price will be selected. This year's budget for trees is around \$17,000 to \$18,000.

Leimbach says the small trees should have a minimum of four feet from the street to the trunk, while medium trees should have a six-foot width and large trees should have an eight-foot width. Parrott said the commission typically picks four canopy trees and four ornamental trees. The commission has a list of 37 trees to work from.

The Cleveland Pear and Tokyo Tower Fringe trees are identified as invasive species and eliminated. The Black-Haw Viburnum is eliminated due to its bushy nature and tendency to sucker. Adam says that out of the ornamental trees, the redbud, the lilac and the crabapple each received multiple votes from the commission. Frericks says a popular Sourwood was lost at the Quincy Arts Center, and many people liked getting their picture near it. Leimbach said a crabapple tree called the Donald Wyman is resistant to scab. Adam said his research showed the Prairie Crabapple had varieties that are highly susceptible to scab and apple rust, but the Raspberry Spear Crabapple didn't have any of those concerns. The four ornamental trees selected are the Raspberry Spear Crabapple, the Redbud, the Sourwood and the Japanese Lilac.

Leimbach said some ornamental trees must maintain a 12-foot clearance over the street and eight feet over the sidewalk because some of them are spread so low that that snowplows could mutilate them.

The group then considers the canopy/shade trees. Adam says oaks, ginkgos, maples and tupelos were popular among the commission. Wilson asks what happens to any trees that aren't bought by the public

as part of the fall planting program. Adam says nine extra trees were planted on 12th Street last year. Leimbach said the Burr Oak is on the no-plant list of several cities, and the Ohio Buckeye leaves messes on the sidewalk. She says the city ordinances say soft maples can't be planted in the city, and the maple is a soft maple. Duryea says when she was helping Anne St. John with Trees for Tomorrow that several Sugar Maples and Rugged Ridge Maples were planted. Wilson suggests crossing the Honey Locust off the list because they're messy. Leimbach says the Sugar Maple and Tuliptree might be too large for the city's spaces.

Leimbach says the Crimson Spire Oak is tall and narrow and doesn't grow as large as the Chinkapin Oak, while a White Oak is a park tree. The commission eventually decides on the Presidential Gold Ginkgo, the Crimson Spire Oak and the Rugged Ridge Maple. Leimbach says tupelos get beautiful color but are slow growing. Holthaus said the Afterburner Black Tupelo has beautiful foliage. The commission picks the Afterburner Black Tupelo as the fourth canopy tree for its potential to fit into medium tree categories.

The New Horizon Elm is selected as an alternate tree for the canopy category, and the Japanese Flowering Cherry is selected as an alternate tree for the ornamental category.

Frericks suggests being careful when requests for proposals are sent to individuals or nurseries, saying that if one gets missed, the city is opening itself for liability if one gets missed. He said Frese's Nursery and Leffers Landscaping have handled the fall tree planting program for years. Holthaus questions if its worthwhile to contact nurseries from as far away as Kansas City, Columbia or St. Louis.

The cost of trees is discussed. Duryea says people who pay for the trees will be more invested in the maintenance of the tree. Holthaus says the commission never has investigated the condition of trees previously bought during the fall tree planting program, so how can it know if people are properly taking care of the trees. Wilson says a customer is getting a \$500 tree for \$100. He said he hadn't thought about the fact that certain wards are not getting trees because people can't afford it.

Leimbach asks for a motion to set the cost of a tree at \$75. Holthaus makes the motion. Wilson seconds. Motion carries unanimously. The commission discusses the size of the tree diameter and agrees that it should be two inches. Candy Scott says information about the importance about care and maintenance should be provided to tree purchasers. Holthaus suggests staking trees appropriately to prevent damage from neighborhood activities. Leimbach says it's critical for the homeowner to be informed about what they should do, from watering to pruning, and that social media and other channels should be used to reach a wider audience to inform people of the planting program. She adds that the city ordinances have a lot of gray areas in tree care and maintenance.

The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn by Young. Holthaus seconds. Motion carries unanimously. The meeting adjourns at 2:04 p.m.

David Adam, Commission Secretary
Community Planner and Developer, City of Quincy