City of Urbana, Illinois

Minutes of the Urbana Tree Commission Meeting
Public Works Engineering Conference Room
706 S. Glover Ave.
Urbana, IL 61802

Wednesday, September 3, 2014
1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Anderson, Stewart Berlocher, Thom Fehrmann, Derek Liebert, Michael Stevenson

Members Absent: Carol Augspurger, Jeff Dawson, Darin Eastburn

Staff Present: Michael Brunk, City of Urbana Arborist

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes from March 5, 2014 were presented for approval. Stevenson moved to approve the minutes, Anderson seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Former Business

a. 312 S. Coler Hackberry Update

Brunk announced that plans for any of the memorial ideas presented at the March meeting were on hold, as the city council did not approve the allocation of funds for the project due to the need to fund the Windsor Road reconstruction. Brunk said he had applied for a $5,000 grant to help fund the memorial, and that if the grant was awarded there would likely be a special meeting called to revisit the issue.

New Business

a. 301 Griggs Bur Oak Legacy Tree Nomination

The Commission reviewed a legacy tree nomination for a private Bur Oak at 301 Griggs (see attached). Discussion ensued regarding the qualifications that the tree met, specifically the age of the tree and its probable connection to the Big Grove. After discussion, Stevenson moved to recommend approval of the tree to City council based on its historical value. Berlocher seconded, and the motion was approved.

b. Summer Storm Damage

Brunk presented photographs of several downed trees and limbs which fell during summer storms. Stevenson commented that reducing the City's pruning cycle could help prevent some of this damage, since it would proactively remove damaged limbs before they fell.

c. Climate Action Plan

Commission members reviewed Goal 4, Action 2 and Action 4 of the Urbana Climate Action Plan draft at the request of Scott Tess, the City's Environmental Manager. Goal 2 addresses the City's pruning cycle, and recommends reducing it to more closely align with the industry standard of five years. Goal 4 addresses tree diversity, and recommends reducing tree species, genus, and family preponderance to 5%, 10%, and 30% respectively. Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of these goals.

Brunk confirmed that the City the tree population in the City is already relatively diverse, with no single species occurring at more than 6% and no single genus occurring at more than 20%. After discussion, Fehrmann moved to make an official recommendation of 5%, 15%, and 30%. Berlocher seconded, and the motion was approved.

Commission members also discussed reduction of the City's pruning cycle. Brunk noted that reducing the cycle to seven years would require the City to employ four full time arbor technicians as opposed to the current two. Fehrmann moved to support Goal 4, Action 2 as written. Stevenson seconded, and the motion was approved.

d. Tree Commission Bylaws

Fletcher-Washington said she would draft new bylaws for the Commission to review at the next meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Femi Fletcher, Recording Secretary
Tree Commission

LEGACY TREE ASSESSMENT FORM

Urbana Legacy Trees

Evaluator: M. Bronk			Date: August 18 2014
Nominator: Dorothy Neumann	Phone: 344 1427		Tree Species: Bur Oak; Quercus Macrocarpa
DBH: 48.5"			Owner: Dorothy Neumann
Height: 84.5'	84 from N/E	85 from N/W	Address: 301 W Griggs
Crown Spread: 72.5 ft	69' E to W	76' N to S	Owner Phone: 344 1427
Distance From Property Line:	5ft outside city right of way		Neighborhood: Central Business District
Yard Location: Front			

LOCALE ASSESSMENT

Is the tree is visible from the ROW? yes		
Is there a conflict with an overhead utility? NO		Distance from overhead Utility: 52 ft trunk face to nearest line
Is the tree on private or City owned property?		Is the tree listed as a 'Notable' tree in the inventory? yes

HEALTH AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT (score is fair or better)

Rating - poor, fair, good, excellent	(poor - excellent)	Comments
Crown and structural condition:	5 Very Good	very full & healthy
Scaffold branches:	5 Very Good	strong lateral attachments
Annual shoot growth:	3 fair	2" last 6 yrs 4"-5" yr 7-8
Foliage:	6 excellent	
Trunk condition:	4 good	slight vertical wound fully healed
Competition:	4 good	
Root flare/distribution:	4 good	
Pruning history:	6 excellent	owner schedules regular deadwood & clearance work
Overall condition	37/8 = 4.625	Good+

LEGACY STANDARDS ASSESSMENT

	Indicate yes or no	Comments
x Size >=top 1% of inventoried trees of its species 729"	yes	48.5 dbh
Rarity >= top 1% of all inventoried trees in Urbana 1.13%		Bur Oak = 1.13% 1 of 116
Documented association with historic or notable event		
x Age >= 100 years or 75 years if next to HL home	yes	estimated to be over 100 yrs old
x Has special ecological value	yes	Big Grove Remnant
x Well known focal point or landmark	yes	
Unusual / appealing visual characteristic and/or form		
Illinois / Natl. Big Tree Register		
Other		

RISK ASSESSMENT**

							Likelihood												Consequences				Risk Rating
							Failure				Impact				Failure and Impact								
Condition #	Tree Part	Conditions of concern	Part size	Fall distance	Target number	Target protection	Improbable	Possible	Probable	Imminent	Very low	low	Medium	High	Unlikely	Somewhat	likely	Very likely	negligible	Minor	significant	severe	
1) Bronk	branch	Failure	6"	15'	1	None		X			X				X							X	Low
2) Street	"	"	10"	15'	2	None		X			X				X						X		Low
3) house	"	"	18"	15'	3	house	X							X	X						X		Low
4) occupants	"	"	16"	15'	4		X					X			X							X	Low

ABATEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDED FOR LEGACY TREE STATUS: Yes or No

Circle appropriate category:

Legacy Size Tree	Legacy Age Tree	Legacy Aesthetics Tree
Legacy Rare Tree	Legacy Ecology Tree	Big Tree Register
Legacy Historic Big Grove Tree	Legacy Location	

COMMENTS:

Tree falls within Big Grove Boundaries and is most likely a Big Grove remnant.

* Health and Condition Assessment: Has to be in fair or better condition to be considered. 1= critical; 2= poor; 3= fair; 4= good; 5= very good; 6= Excellent

** Risk Assessment: Has to be a moderate risk rating or less to be considered.
Trees with a high risk can be resubmitted and revaluated at a later date once hazard has been corrected.
Risk assessment will be completed by in-house Certified Arborists prior to Tree Commission Evaluation.

MBronk 8/18 2014

ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form

Client 301 Griggs Legacy Tree Date Aug 18 2014 Time 11 am
Address/Tree location 301 Griggs Tree no. _____ Sheet _____ of _____
Tree species Bur Oak dbh 48 Height 84 Crown spread dia. 72
Assessor(s) M. Brunk Time frame 2hrs Tools used Clinometer

Target Assessment

Target number	Target description	Target zone: Target within drip line	Target zone: Target within 1 x Ht.	Target zone: Target within 1.5 x Ht.	Occupancy rate (1–rare 2–occasional 3–frequent 4–constant)	Practical to move target?	Restriction practical?
1	People on sidewalk	X			2	NO	NO
2	People in street	X			2	NO	NO
3	House	X			4	NO	NO
4	People in House	X			3	NO	NO

Site Factors

History of failures Lightning Strike little to no effect **Topography** Flat ☒ Slope ☐ _____% **Aspect** _____
Site changes None ☒ Grade change ☐ Site clearing ☐ Changed soil hydrology ☐ Root cuts ☐ Describe _____
Soil conditions Limited volume ☐ Saturated ☐ Shallow ☐ Compacted ☐ Pavement over roots ☒ 50 % Describe loose, street, bldgs
Prevailing wind direction W **Common weather** Strong winds ☒ Ice ☐ Snow ☐ Heavy rain ☐ Describe 55 mph every 2yr wind

Tree Health and Species Profile

Vigor Low ☐ Normal ☒ High ☐ **Foliage** None (seasonal) ☐ None (dead) ☐ Normal 100 % Chlorotic ____% Necrotic ____%
Pests _____ **Abiotic** _____
Species failure profile Branches ☐ Trunk ☐ Roots ☐ Describe Not common in Bur Oaks (generally do not fail)

Load Factors

Wind exposure Protected ☐ Partial ☒ Full ☐ Wind funneling ☐ _____ **Relative crown size** Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☒
Crown density Sparse ☐ Normal ☒ Dense ☐ **Interior branches** Few ☐ Normal ☒ Dense ☐ **Vines/Mistletoe/Moss** ☐ _____
Recent or planned change in load factors N/A

Tree Defects and Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

— Crown and Branches —

Unbalanced crown ☐ LCR 83 %
Dead twigs/branches ☐ 3± % overall Max. dia. 1"
Broken/Hangers Number 0 Max. dia. _____
Over-extended branches ☐
Pruning history
Crown cleaned ☒ Thinned ☐ Raised ☐
Reduced ☐ Topped ☐ Lion-tailed ☐
Flush cuts ☐ Other roof clearance

Cracks ☐ _____ Lightning damage ☐
Codominant ☐ _____ Included bark ☐
Weak attachments ☐ _____ Cavity/Nest hole ____% circ.
Previous branch failures ☐ _____ Similar branches present ☐
Dead/Missing bark ☐ Cankers/Galls/Burls ☐ Sapwood damage/decay ☐
Conks ☐ Heartwood decay ☐ _____
Response growth _____

Main concern(s) signs of response wood and slight sunken vertical area under lowest branch over side walk & street curbline
Load on defect N/A ☐ Minor ☒ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐ _____
Likelihood of failure Improbable ☐ Possible ☒ Probable ☐ Imminent ☐ _____

— Trunk —

Dead/Missing bark ☐ Abnormal bark texture/color ☐
Codominant stems ☐ Included bark ☐ Cracks ☐
Sapwood damage/decay ☐ Cankers/Galls/Burls ☐ Sap ooze ☐
Lightning damage ☒ ? Heartwood decay ☐ Conks/Mushrooms ☐
Cavity/Nest hole ____% circ. Depth _____ Poor taper ☐
Lean ____° Corrected? _____
Response growth yes; could be from lightning
Main concern(s) minor response wood on trunk under lowest limb N side
Load on defect N/A ☐ Minor ☒ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐
Likelihood of failure
Improbable ☒ Possible ☐ Probable ☐ Imminent ☐

— Roots and Root Collar —

Collar buried/Not visible ☐ Depth _____ Stem girdling ☐
Dead ☐ Decay ☐ Conks/Mushrooms ☐
Ooze ☐ Cavity ☐ ____% circ.
Cracks ☐ Cut/Damaged roots ☐ Distance from trunk _____
Root plate lifting ☐ Soil weakness ☐

Response growth _____
Main concern(s) None
Load on defect N/A ☒ Minor ☐ Moderate ☐ Significant ☐
Likelihood of failure
Improbable ☒ Possible ☐ Probable ☐ Imminent ☐

Risk Categorization

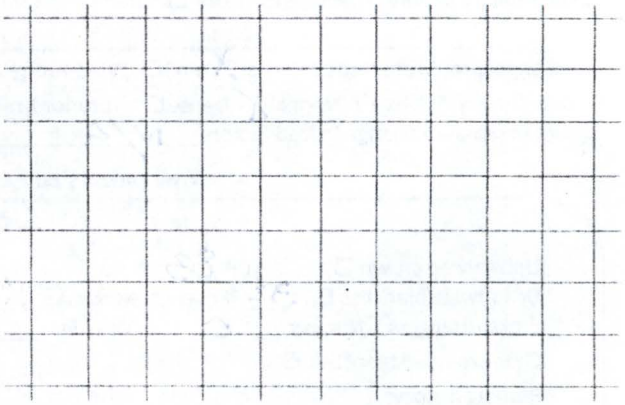
Condition number	Tree part	Conditions of concern	Part size	Fall distance	Target number	Target protection	Likelihood: Failure: Improbable	Failure: Possible	Failure: Probable	Failure: Imminent	Likelihood: Impact: Very low	Impact: Low	Impact: Medium	Impact: High	Likelihood: Failure & Impact (from Matrix 1): Unlikely	Somewhat	Likely	Very likely	Consequences: Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe	Risk rating of part (from Matrix 2)
1	branch	Signs of internal damage under lowest limb on sidewalk side	10"	15'	1	None		X			X				X							X	Low
2	branch	same as above & over st. curb	10"	15'	2			X			X				X							X	Low
3	branch	branch failure over house	16"	15-20	3		X							X	X						X		Low
4	branch	branch failure over house harming people in house	16"	15-20	4		X					X			X							X	Low

Matrix 1. Likelihood matrix.

Likelihood of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting Target			
	Very low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

Matrix 2. Risk rating matrix.

Likelihood of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low



Notes, explanations, descriptions Bur Oak has been well maintained and is in Good to very good condition Crown is full throughout and LCR (Live Crown Ratio) is well above 1/3 - 2/3 crown rule (trunk)

Mitigation options None recommended at this time — **Residual risk**

Residual risk

Residual risk

Residual risk

Overall tree risk rating (Low ☐) Moderate ☐ High ☐ Extreme ☐ — **Work priority** 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Overall residual risk Low ☐ Moderate ☐ High ☐ Extreme ☐ — **Recommended inspection interval** 3yr

Data ☒ Final ☐ Preliminary **Advanced assessment needed** ☒ No ☐ Yes-Type/Reason

Inspection limitations ☐ None ☐ Visibility ☒ Access ☐ Vines ☐ Root collar buried Describe Ground inspection only

Urbana Legacy Trees

City of Urbana
Public Works Department

Legacy Tree Owner Consent Form

Name of Property Owner Dorothy Neumann Date 8/8/14

Address 301 W. Griggs St, Urbana, IL Phone 344-1427

☑ **I have read and understand the benefits available to owners of designated Legacy Trees and the process for designating a nominated tree.**

☑ **I have read and understand the terms for de-listing a designated tree.**

☑ **I have read and understand the recommended practices to ensure the long-term health of a Legacy Tree and that following these practices may cause some detriments to the future use of my property.**

☒ I hereby consent to allow the City Arborist and the Urbana Tree Commission to assess and potentially designate the nominated tree(s) on my property.

☐ I **do not** consent to allow the City Arborist and the Urbana Tree Commission to assess and potentially designate the nominated tree(s) on my property.

☒ I hereby consent to allow the City Arborist and the Urbana Tree Commission to install a Legacy Tree plaque on my property.

☐ I **do not** consent to allow the City Arborist and the Urbana Tree Commission to install a Legacy Tree plaque on my property.

Name of Property Owner(s) Dorothy J. Neumann

Signature of Property Owner(s) Dorothy J Neumann

Please attach any interesting facts or stories about your nominated tree(s).

City Arborist use only

Signature of City Arborist _____ Date _____

Comments _____

Please return completed form to the Urbana City Arborist at
Urbana Public Works, 706 S. Glover Ave, Urbana IL 61802 www.urbanaillinois.us/legacytree

05.2014

CITY OF URBANA

City of Urbana
Public Works Department

Urbana Legacy Trees

Legacy Tree Nomination Form

Any Urbana resident may nominate a tree. Nominated trees will be evaluated by the Urbana City Arborist and approved by the Urbana Tree Commission pending property owner consent.

Tree Information

**denotes required field. Please print legibly.*

Tree Species/Common Name Quercus macrocarpa / Burr Oak

*Address where tree is located 301 W. Griggs St,

*Property owner Name Dorothy Neumann

*Property owner Address 301 W. Griggs St

Is the tree located on public or private property?	☒ Public	☐ Private
Is the tree readily visible from the street or sidewalk?	☒ Yes	☐ No
Is the tree within 15 feet of overhead utilities?	☒ Yes	☐ No

Why should this tree be designated as a Legacy Tree?

☒ Size	☐ Rarity
☒ Age	☐ Historic/Notable Event
☐ Ecological Value	☐ Location
☐ Aesthetics	☐ IL/US Big Tree Register

Indicate trunk diameter at breast height (4.5 ft from ground). Use the sketch as a guide.

Image source: University of Minnesota Extension

B: 151.5"

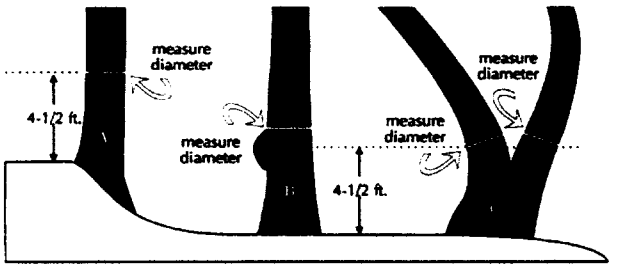


Figure 2-1. Measure stem diameter at breast height (DBH)

Nominator Information

Nominator's Name Dorothy Neumann Phone 344-1427

Nominator's Address 301 W. Griggs St

How did you learn about the Legacy Tree Program? a friend

Please explain your choice and share any information or stories about the tree(s) you're nominating. Feel free to submit attachments.

My house was built around 1890 according to the Sanborn insurance maps. I feel sure the tree was here before the house was built. It has withstood a huge lightening strike. It shades my house keeping it cool in the summer and provides food for urban wild life. I hope when I'm gone this designation will protect it.

Dor

Please return completed form to the Urbana City Arborist at
Urbana Public Works, 706 S. Glover Ave, Urbana IL 61802 www.urbanaillinois.us/legacytree

CITY OF URBANA

05-2014