



Peoria Urban Forestry Advisory Board (PUFAB)

MEETING NOTICE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 5, 2024, AT 12:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING OPTION AVAILABLE

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Meeting ID: 274 598 308 096

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To be held at the Lester D. Bergsten Operations & Maintenance Building, Conference Room #113, 3505 N. Dries Lane, Peoria, Illinois 61604

PUFAB AGENDAS AND MINUTES

ISSUED BY: [] CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

3505 N. DRIES LANE, PEORIA IL 61604
309-494-8800

INTERNET ADDRESS: www.peoriagov.org

To access electronic Agenda & Minutes (only):

1. www.peoriagov.org/boards-commissions/
2. Choose PUFAB Commission
3. Scroll to the bottom of the screen. Under "Agenda & Minutes" will be a list of the .pdf postings, posted by year.
4. Select desired document and click to open.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

None.

MINUTES

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PUFAB December 5, 2024 MINUTES

AGENDA ITEMS

- ITEM NO. 1** Spring Home Show Event Overview
- ITEM NO. 2** Discuss City's Tree Planting Initiatives for 2024
- ITEM NO. 3** Discuss Tree Plantings on Alta Road
- ITEM NO. 4** Discuss Tree City USA Requirements
- ITEM NO. 5** Discuss Arbor Day Events

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

Anyone wishing to make a public comment can do so by sending those comments to Public Works, by **12:00 p.m.** on March 1, 2024, Public comments can be sent to the public works department, in writing, at **publicworks@peoriagov.org** or via fax at 309-494-8855. The email or fax should be labeled "public comment for March 1, 2024, PUFAB Committee Meeting," and we ask that you include your name and address.

Citizens wishing to address an item not on the agenda should contact a commission member prior to the meeting. All other public input will be heard under public comment near the end of the committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING

June 4, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS AN ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA SHOULD CONTACT A COMMISSION MEMBER PRIOR TO THE MEETING. ALL OTHER PUBLIC INPUT WILL BE HEARD UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT NEAR THE END OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING.

NOTE: THE ORDER IN WHICH AGENDA ITEMS ARE CONSIDERED MAY BE MOVED FORWARD OR DELAYED BY AT LEAST 2/3 VOTE OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT.



CITY OF PEORIA – PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matt Freeman, Michael Wilkins, Mike Price, Amy McLaren, Randy Swenson, Doug McCarty – 6

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ella Maxwell, Brian Probst – 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

Freeman announced the park district recently celebrated their 100th tree planted for the year of 2023. It was planted in the upper section of Laura Bradley Park in the Corn Stock Theatre area. He said their goal for the year was to plant 75 trees, so 100 is a proud milestone.

Price mentioned Mike Moss, who is currently the vegetation supervisor, is going to be retiring in June, so Price will be sending information on the new hire once they are selected.

MINUTES

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE PUFAB

September 5, 2023, Minutes

Freeman motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Price; approved with a unanimous verbal vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 Discuss Informational Inventory and Decide What Needs to be Ordered Before Home Show

Wilkins said he has ordered more materials from Julie including flyers, magnets, and keychains. Price said he will investigate the cost of some more flyers and get back to the commission on what materials he can provide for the Spring Home Show. Wilkins said he would connect with the event organizer to reserve a booth, and Mathews said a sign-up for booth shifts will be sent to the commission soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Since the last meeting where the commission discussed dangerous trees on private property, Swenson did some research on what other cities do with dangerous trees on private property. Swenson provided two handouts, one included an article on the Illinois Arborist Association's ordinances for tree removal on private property, and the other referred to the municipal code for the City of Highland Park, IL: specifically, section 94.010. McLaren asked if the handouts refer to how the government handles dangerous trees or what the property owners have to do about dangerous trees. Swenson answered, saying the information varies but in general, if a tree is hazardous, other cities will remove the tree and the owner will be billed via a lien on the property. Freeman asked if the ordinance from different municipalities explains their procedures, i.e., who deems it a hazard and to what degree? Swenson clarified that the article does not give specific details as it is just a general overview. Wilkins mentioned a common protocol for the past couple

years has been to have an arborist evaluate trees and if it is deemed hazardous, a removal notice will be sent to the property owner with a lien warning if it is not addressed. Maroon agreed that it would make sense to put a lien on a property if trees are not being handled properly by the owner. Maroon confirmed that if a tree limb falls from one property onto a neighboring property, the limb is now considered the responsibility of the neighboring property. Wilkins said that based on a discussion he had with the City of Peoria legal department 20 years ago, if a tree was previously observed as being hazardous before a limb fell, then the limb that falls onto neighboring property is still the responsibility of the tree's owner. Johnson said he was not aware of that protocol. Maroon said the Public Works department will investigate this new information as it is not how they have been operating.

Swenson referred to the Illinois Arborist Association's article (see Attachment A) where it states they are curious if other municipalities have ordinances that allow city officials to force homeowners to remove potentially hazardous trees. Mathews referred to the City of Peoria's ordinance which states that the city arborist can deem a tree to be a public nuisance. Wilkins said the ordinance states that the city arborist does not need to be a certified arborist, it is anyone the Public Works Director appoints to that title; the terms city arborist and licensed tree expert are used interchangeably within the ordinance. Mathews said that Public Works will need to work with Community Development with issuing citations and fines to property owners for hazardous trees. Graves added that Community Development will need to be trained on what to look for in order to issue a citation. Maroon said the commission and staff members need to investigate the ordinances and consult with legal on how to implement new procedures. Freeman mentioned an appeal process will need to be implemented.

NEW BUSINESS

Freeman mentioned PUFAB will be participating in a booth at the Forest Park Nature Center's Earth Day Festival in April.

McCarty mentioned the Rotary North Club planted 75 trees at Donovan Park and Cassidy Park a few years ago. He asked if the club plans to do another planting event in the future. Freeman answered, saying he has not yet heard from the club regarding plantings. McCarty asked if there are any areas in the city with room for 15-20 trees to be planted. Freeman said Springdale may be a good spot to begin planting as many of the current trees are fairly old.

McCarty asked if any more trees could be planted at Donovan Park. Freeman answered, saying Ameren sponsored a tree planting at that park earlier in 2023; he said he would need to evaluate whether it would be feasible to plant more trees at the park.

McCarty mentioned Bloomington's Ecology Action Center which plants 10,000 trees in Bloomington-Normal and McLean County each year. Freeman said Ameren worked with the city on October 7th and planted 100 trees in city rights-of-way.

Freeman proposed that the Green Infrastructure Coordinator observe the vacant lots in Peoria to work on an urban forestry plan, then the city and the park district can reach out to advocacy and corporate groups to collaborate on tree plantings to make progress quickly. McLaren mentioned it would be beneficial to coordinate with Community Development to identify properties that should be considered for plantings.

McLaren asked Maroon if there were any changes to the Forestry budget for 2024. Maroon answered, saying it is still status quo.

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NEXT MEETING

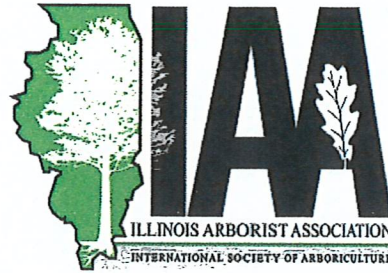
March 5, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, McCarty motioned to adjourn the meeting; Price seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM.

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Municipal Ordinances on Tree Removal on Private Property

Question from: Keith O'Herrin, Forester, City of Highland Park

We are curious to see if any municipalities have ordinances that allow city officials to force a homeowner to remove a tree on private property that is potentially hazardous to other private property (aka neighbor vs neighbor). We have an ordinance that allows us to force a tree to be removed from private property if it is threatening public property (sidewalk, street), but this is different.

Responses made available by various different municipalities:[Click Here for a spreadsheet with responses](#)

About Us

The Illinois Arborist Association is a non-profit organization that educates our members in proper tree care. We support research on trees. Our mission is to "Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture." [More...](#)

Contact Us

Custom Content

P.O. Box 860 Antioch, Illinois 60002

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1-877-617-8887

Mon - Fri 8:00 to 4:00PM



Our Mission

Our mission: "Foster interest, establish standards, exchange professional ideas and pursue scientific research in Arboriculture."

IAA Membership

Membership in IAA links you to a powerful state-wide partnership of people and programs to help you protect and enhance your career investment. Listed below are the membership features designed to help you grow, both professionally and personally. We hope this information demonstrates why over 1,200 of your professional colleagues belong to the IAA. [More...](#)

Community		
Algonquin	Yes - Strong language, very specific	Yes. "The owner of any tree in the Village that constitutes a hazard to life or property or harbors disease constituting a threat to other trees shall remove such tree within 60 days after written notice to do so from the Public Works Director. The failure to remove such tree is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.
Niles	Yes - Strong language, very specific	Yes. "Any tree found to be dead, diseased, infected or dangerous by the Village forester, located on any premises in the Village, shall be removed within 30 days following service of the notice for which provision is made herein. Extensions may be granted by the Village forester. "
Wilmette	Yes - Strong language, very specific	"Wilmette has an ordinance that states trees which constitute a hazard to persons or property can be ordered for removal. It further states that trees that threaten public safety can be worked on by the Village if necessary and charged back to the owner."
Carmel, IN	Yes - Strong language, very specific	"Dead, dying, damaged or diseased trees shall be prohibited to exist or be maintained on any premises, which are hazardous to persons on adjacent property or to adjacent property. A finding by a registered forester or certified arborist shall constitute prima-facie evidence that a tree is in danger of falling upon adjacent lots or public streets due to the death or impeding death of the tree, or due to damage by weather conditions or due
Lake Bluff	Yes - Strong language, very specific	"Any tree which is dead, dangerous, or likely to fall or that is so unsafe, unhealthy, diseased, or insect infested as to constitute a hazard to persons, property or other vegetation;" is considered dangerous and must be
Northbrook	Yes - Strong language, very specific	Yes. "Any dead or declining tree growing or standing on private property is declared to be a nuisance and a hazard. Any dead or declining tree that is declared a nuisance or a hazard must be removed by the owner of the premises on which the tree grows or stands so that the nuisance or hazard is abated."
Oak Lawn	Yes - Strong language, very specific	"In Oak Lawn, I will first notify people that they should remove the tree as not to cause harm to neighboring properties. Typically, I wait about 30 days and drive back by to see if the issue has been addressed. If not, I proceed with sending a certified letter, to the property owner, stating that they have 30 days to remove the hazard. If not removed within time frame, the Village will schedule the work and send a crew but, will lien the property owner to recoup associated costs. "
Naperville	Yes - Strong language, very specific	"A tree, or portion thereof, that is substantially dead, or which is in an unstable condition, may be deemed to constitute a public hazard by the City if it is determined that its condition presents a reasonable likelihood of causing physical damage to person or property. " Also mentions DED, EAB, ALB, and oak wilt.
Westmont	Yes - Weak, vague language	Yes (effectively). "Any dead tree, or near dead tree as determined by the Village Forester, whether located on Village-owned property or on private property."
Skokie	Yes - Weak, vague language	"Loosely written nuisance ordinance" that only applies to hazards to public property. Unless, property is vacant (e.g., homeowners are in Florida). Also, 50 DED letters per year. 'Private tree issues are not a service we provide.' But they do occasionally get involved and spend immense amounts of time on them (absentee
Mt Prospect	Yes - Weak, vague language	No dead trees or shrubs shall be allowed to remain on any property within the village. Also has codes for DED and EAB. And trees hazardous to public property.
Geneva	Yes - Weak, vague language	...removal of nuisance trees and bushes from real property not owned by the city or dedicated for public use when the owner of such [...] refuses or neglects to [do so themselves].' Also includes codes for EAB and DED

Also City of Elgin requires removal.

Lake Forest	No - only concerned with threats to public property	DANGEROUS TREES. (A) Any tree on private property which overhangs any sidewalk, street or other public property in such a way as to impede or interfere with traffic, and any tree or limb which has become likely to fall on or across any public right-of-way or public property, shall be trimmed or removed by the owner of the property on which the tree grows so that the obstruction or danger is removed.
Deerfield	No - only concerned with threats to public property	"Dangerous Trees or Shrubs (a) Any tree or shrub which overhangs any sidewalk, street or other public place in the Village in such a way as to impede or interfere with traffic or travel shall be trimmed by the owner of the abutting premises or of the premises on which such tree or shrub grows so that the obstruction shall cease.(b) Any tree or limb of a tree which has become likely to fall on or across any public place or way shall be removed by the owner of the premises on which such tree grows or stands. (c) The Director of Public Works may trim such tree or shrub or remove any such tree or branch thereof so that the obstruction or danger to traffic or
Lombard	No - only concerned with threats to public property	Code allows removal of private trees by City for 'public safety or to prevent the spread of disease or insects.' Specifically mentions DED and EAB, but also trees posing a hazard to public property. Not private property
Barrington	No - only concerned with threats to public property	Code allows removal of private trees by City specifically for DED and EAB
Burr Ridge	No - only concerned with threats to public property	"No, not currently"
Glenview	No - only concerned with threats to public property	These "are 'civil matters' to be resolved by the residents themselves."
Highland Park	No - only concerned with threats to public property	Codes allows removal of private trees only where posing a threat to public right-of-way, or DED or EAB