

Chicago Urban Forestry Advisory Board

Executive Board

Malcolm Whiteside, Jr
President

Jessica Vogt
Vice President

Angela Tovar
Chief Sustainability Officer

Cindy Schwab
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Daniella Pereira
Board Member

Jim Semelka
Board Member

Nuri Madina
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Rolando Favela
Board Member

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Commissioner – CDOT

Andrea Cheng
Commissioner – DWM

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Commissioner – DPD

Rosa Escareno
General Supt/CEO – Pk
Dist.

Maria E. Haddon
Alderman – Environment
Comte.

Minutes of the Chicago Urban Forestry Advisory Board

Meeting August 3, 2023

Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present-In-Person:

Jessica Vogt

Daniella Pereira

Rolando Favela

Rosa Escareno

Nuri Madina

Jim Semelka

Angela Tovar

Malcomb Whiteside

Absent:

Cindy Schwab

Action Items

I. Emerald Ash Borer

- EAB bid process has been submitted with a question-and-answer process to allow vendors to place bids.
- Hoping for a smooth and fast bid process so that a fall injection can be made on ash trees.

II. Area Trimming Update

- Area trimming is going great.
- 30,000 trees have been pruned compared to 10,000 trees last year in the same time period.

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- Process is proving highly successful, hoping to still gain more efficiencies as time goes on.

III. Tree Planting Update

- Ambassadors find locations and put door hangers on doors for citizens to opt out. This method has proven to have positive improvements over the previous opt in door hangers.
- One stumbling block was people calling the 311 app requesting tree plantings, door hangers were not hung to give people a way to opt out. This caused some trees that were planted to have to be dug up and transplanted. This situation has been rectified by removing all anonymous requests for tree plantings.
- 2022 proved easier to plant than 2023 because there was a backlog of request for tree plantings.

IV. Landscape Ordinance Plan

- Review the landscape ordinance plan and look at how it affects trees.
- Collaborate with other working groups to be sure that siloing does not happen.
- Put a working group together to eventually work on this.
- Move from prescriptive to performative goals.

V. 1990 Mayor Live Tree Removal Directive

- This gives discretion of Alderman discretion over living tree removals.
- The concern is this policy has been in place since the 1990's and has become outdated with a more robust forestry department with many Certified Arborists on staff.
- A motion was made to send the mayor a message to update the removal process for living parkway trees.
- Verbiage will be worked on.

VI. Education

- Chicago Public Schools has agreed to coordinate getting material into schools about trees.
- The idea is to look at coordinating it with planting schedule.

VII. Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting will take place on Dec 7 1:00pm at City Hall in Room 1103.

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VIII. Public Comments

- A comment was made that people want to save the ash trees and that treatment for ash trees to protect against Emerald Ash Borer should be made for next year.

IX. Adjourned