### **Campus Tree Advisory Committee**

### **Agenda & Meeting Notes for Feb. 2022**

Invitees:

Kevin McSweeney, chair

Morgan White

Brent Lewis

Ryan Welch

Andrew Lamoreux

Jay Hayek

Jack Reicherts

Julia Marsaglia

Sinead Soltis

Eliana Brown

1. Welcome and hello from Chair – Kevin
2. Review of Charge Letter – Morgan
   * **Goal of Committee:** To provide guidance about policies
3. Tree Campus Plan submitted and approved – Morgan
   * UIUC was approved and verified again as a Tree Campus!
   * Ryan –
     1. Budget numbers and tree count numbers are difficult to identify.
     2. They allocate a budget for the trees, but often do not utilize the entire budget that is reserved.
     3. Tree keeper aids in accounting for the number of trees added or removed from campus, making the process easier. Removals are accounted for in terms of: species and stump.
     4. Stump --> Plant --> Tree
     5. Provides guidance and makes decisions as to whether or not a tree should return to a place where it was originally removed.
   * Mark DeLorenzo informed about Tree Campus status by Dr. Ehab
   * Andrew – Application for growth awards?
     1. May only be for cities, not for campuses.
     2. Morgan, Eliana, and Brent a part of the Champaign Conservation Design Committee (CCDC)
        1. Michael Brunk provides detailed emails every 2 weeks regarding updates, related information, and grant opportunities for forestry.
4. Arbor Day save the date – April 29, 2022
   * IL State Governor released a comment saying that indoor mask mandate may be removed at the end of February
     1. Event may be moved indoors.
   * Event Ideas:
     1. Jay – Does the President’s House have a flag post to hang the Tree Campus USA for photo opportunities?
        1. Flag Post = Right in front of the President’s House
        2. Could be draped on the RORG bridge?
        3. Alma Mater? Ask Robin Kaler
     2. Tree plantings near Alma Mater?
        1. All removals have already been replaced.
        2. Newer trees planted near there last year – Crab Apple, etc.
        3. Proposed to do tree plantings in this area prior to Altgeld project.
     3. Tree Champion?
        1. Largest tree of a given native species on campus.
           1. Largest based on a formula of height, width of trunk, etc.
     4. Deciding the location:
        1. Refocusing with recognition to Chancellor Jones
        2. Consider parking availability
     5. Revisit Arbor Day at the next March meeting
   * Earth Day 2022
     1. Ribbon cutting
5. Discussion with UIC about tree damage policies – Brent
   * UIC experiencing difficulties with tree removals with damages
   * Same structure as UIUC with Auxiliaries and F&S
   * ArborScope (UIC) & Navy Tree Keeper (UIUC)
     1. ArborScope doesn’t account for all aspects (ex: Total asset, but not # of trees)
     2. Automatically generates asset value based on dimensions and other tree characteristics
   * Only 3,500 trees on the UIC campus
   * Tree surgeons are not in-house services, but instead utilize third-party individuals
   * “Trees are infrastructure” -Brent
   * Idea: Pull all trees and bring them under F&S
   * UIC standards ask contractors for a 3-year warranty for all trees, but most individuals utilize a 1-year warranty
   * UIC replacement policy is in-terms of caliper-per-caliper, as opposed to a UIUC tree-for-tree
     1. UIUC policy could mean losing a large tree, and being replaced as a smaller one.
     2. Caliper-per-caliper is extremely common for the Chicagoland area.
   * How can we adopt a caliper-per-caliper policy?
     1. Revisions from Brent
        1. 0-6" caliper would be 1 replacement tree
        2. 6-12" caliper would be 2 replacement trees
        3. 12-18” caliper would be 3 replacement trees
        4. 18+ caliper would be 4 replacement trees
        5. All replacement trees would be per F&S Standards, so typically 2 to 2.5” caliper. In some cases we will replace with ornamental trees which might be smaller. In general, this is the idea, which consistent with most universities and medium to large municipalities that I know of and that others have looked at.
     2. Funds do not rollover to the next FY, not a revolving account.
        1. If they damage a tree and take it out, responsible parties must pay for the tree based on an assessment.
        2. Need approval to bring on additional members for Assistant Tree Surgeon, etc.
        3. An account can be held in the foundation for a revolving account, but UIUC can provide one as well.
     3. If trees are removed and the space can no longer host trees, trees can be replanted in a different location.
        1. Project location boundaries are not a main constraint.
     4. Dollar-for-dollar for tree purchases is beneficial for marketing, etc.
     5. After the policy draft is written, the Tree Campus Committee may review.
6. Discussion of Nursery proposal – Kevin and all
   * Cherries, Magnolias, Oaks, and other natives
   * Evaluation of some species from further south
   * Would these be good to assess in case climate change shifts environment?
   * Arboretum Master Plan (p25):
     1. Arboretum and F&S would have a resource for growing baby trees.
     2. It can serve as a demonstration facility as well.
     3. We have needs onsite that would benefit from timely replacements.
     4. Not to compete with commercial suppliers.
     5. Visioning it as a small operation to take care of special needs for tree species we deem as important.
   * Brent - Would love to grow trees that are difficult to purchase at a 2.5” caliper, only as seedlings.
   * Ryan -- Maintenance would need to be able to keep up with the trees. Need an operational tree spade
     1. Theoretically open to the idea, but hesitant from an operational aspect.
     2. There are things to consider from an operational point of view.
   * Are we staffed appropriately in terms of the number of specially trained roles?
     1. Increasing staff may mean budget cuts in terms of equipment.
   * Most important piece is ongoing commitment to the project.
     1. Need for ongoing funds & resources
     2. Can potentially lean on NRES for student workers or volunteers
        1. Links into an outreach educational opportunity that could prove to be big
        2. Emerging interest in agroforestry in IL
        3. Having examples of fruit, nut, berry trees can be close to the extension building
        4. Teaching research & outreach
   * Is there a functional real estate to implement and expand?
     1. At this point, an area was identified in the Arboretum Master Plan as the location just east of the F&S maintenance yard
     2. Identify whether or not we can proceed with this plan from an operational point
7. Round the table, if time allows
   * Next meeting in March 2022.