

# Urban Forestry Committee Minutes

May 8, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

City of Grand Rapids

City Hall – 300 Monroe Ave NW

Room 601

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## Committee Members Present:

Tommy Allen, Cindy Irving, Bill Vassilakis, Becky Pobst, Joe Sulak, Hannah Mico

## Mission:

*To provide guidance to the City Commission and City staff to promote and maintain a vibrant and healthy urban treescape and canopy for citizens of Grand Rapids.*

## Agenda:

1. Call to Order: 4:07 pm
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Approval of Agenda  
Motion made by Hannah Mico, supported by Joe Sulak, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Minutes from the April 10 meeting  
Motion made by Joe Sulak, supported by Cindy Irving, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried
5. Public Comments – Representatives from the Documenters present.  
Recording confirmed.
6. Old Business
  - Tree awareness items  
Becky stated tree watering social media posts will go out soon. There are a few about drought.
  - Tour des Trees  
Joe stated a tree will be planted at Riverside Park as part of the event.
  - Mayors' Monarch Pledge  
Tommy stated the proclamation will be read at a future City Commission meeting. The other documents for the application have been submitted.
7. New Business  
Committee members asked about the trees removed at Canal Park during construction. Joe stated the trees that were removed is due to the way the park will be stepped down to the river. Trees that can be preserved will be, and new trees (more than what was there originally) will be planted.

8. Partner Reports
  - City of Grand Rapids
    - Forestry:  
Full staff again in the Forestry unit. Pruning project is ongoing, about 1800 to remove in the next fiscal year. Stump grinding is starting (about 600 citywide). Operations and Management Plan is still being finalized.
    - Engineering:  
Road construction season and tree planting will occur in the fall.
  - Friends of Grand Rapids Parks  
ArborFest event was successful with 203 trees planted. Starting an Explore Your Parks program this summer. Discussion took place regarding trees and utilities.
9. Agenda Items for future meeting
  - Approved species list (June 2025)
  - Forestry Operations & Management Plan (September 2025)
  - Zoning change and effect on canopy (Fall 2025)
10. Adjournment – 4:30 pm

**Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025 – 4:00 p.m. at City Hall**