



Independence Tree Commission Minutes

September 10, 2025 5:30 PM

Vaile Mansion - 1500 N. Liberty

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: David Campbell, Darla Eames, Jim Hannah, Twyla Olson-Hahn, Tim O'Neill, Mike Adams, Mike Hernandez, Charlotte Olejko

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

August minutes read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Legacy Trees

A page on the City's website is being designed. Memorial trees and Adopt-a-Tree will be included as part of the Legacy Tree program. Trees to include are the Smoketree and Sugar Maple Allee at the Vaile Mansion, Tuliptree at Woodlawn Cemetery, Osage Orange Truman Ginkgo on Maple Street and others.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Relations Manager - Maddie Rincon

Maddie Rincon, City of Independence Public Relations Manager, came to gather information to design a web page about the Legacy Tree Program. Possible features include an interactive map and the ability for the public to submit a tree of interest either on public or private property. Guidelines would be in place for trees with interesting features, age, size and history. Ms. Rincon will report back with website updates.

2. Landscape Plan - Independence Square

Planting will commence on Monday, Sept. 15 for the Independence Square upgrade. Four tree selections are Honeylocuts, Coffeetree, Blackgum, and Hornbeam. Some of our members will meet at 9 am on Thursday, Sept. 11 on the Square to flag out the trees.

TREE TALK

Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor*. Zone 3-8. 50-60' high and wide. Fall color is usually yellow. The leaf is dark green above with a silvery underside. Produces acorns. Grows in wet areas, but has good drought tolerance as well. Genu name is the classical Latin name for Oak. The specific epithet refers to the shiny green leaves above and silvery white beneath. Very tolerant tree once established. Shaggy bark.

ADJOURNMENT - NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 8, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.