



Independence Tree Commission Minutes

August 13, 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, Twyla Olson-Hahn, Tim O'Neill, Jim Hannah, Mike Adams; Charlotte Olejko

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

June minutes read and approved. No July meeting held.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Legacy Trees

The Commission will resume research and recommend trees throughout the city for exceptional trees. The Champion Tree program has been canceled by the conservation department. The Commission will collect information and institute a website for these trees. Need to take pictures and measurements of each tree recommended.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Development - Hollie Allerson

Hollie Allerson, Neighborhood Services Supervisor from the Community Development Department, spoke to the Commission regarding codes for investigating hazardous conditions, tall grass, and trash violations on properties in Independence. Ms. Allerson will email a guideline for reporting any trees deemed a hazard or other types of code violations.

2. Landscape Plan - Vaile Mansion

A tree on the northeast corner of the property fell over and was removed recently. The Commission will try to get a replacement tree planted in the near future. Also still need to purchase and plant a Kousa Dogwood through a donation from a resident.

TREE TALK

Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. Zone 4-8. 70-100' tall by 15-25' wide. Full sun. Can tolerate wet

soils. Deciduous conifer. There is evidence of this tree existing 50 million years ago through fossil data. Trunks develop fluting with age. Fern-like foliage. Red bronze fall color. Genus name comes from the Greek word 'metra' meaning with, after, sharing, or changed in nature. Sequoia means to which it is related, and to which fossil specimens were first referred. Specific epithet means resembling the genus *Glyptostrobus*.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Next meeting September 10 at 5:30 pm.