



Independence Tree Commission Minutes

May 13, 2026 5:30 PM

Vaile Mansion, 1500 N Liberty

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. Those in attendance were: Charlotte Olejko, Tim O'Neil, Mike Hernandez, Darla Eames, Twyla Olson-Hahn, with guests: Sue Evans, citizens of Independence, and Madeline Rincon.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Minutes - April 8, 2026

April meeting minutes were read and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Legacy Trees

Madeline gave an update for the Legacy Tree Program to be on the city website. She will send the link to commissioners via email for members to try the website and see how it works in real time. Information included is where the tree will be located, size, type, whether on private or public property. We can also include memorial trees.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Landscape Plan - Truman Connect

1. Landscape Plan - Truman Connect

Truman Connect is in progress.

Sue Evans is working on a landscape project and would like to enlist help to select trees. We will start reviewing the tree ordinance for Independence at the next meeting.

TREE TALK

Turkish Filbert, *corylus colurna*. Also listed as Turkish Hazelnut, 40-60' H x 30-50' W. Zone 4-7 full sun, may get some shade. Yellow leaves in the fall, but not outstanding. Nuts are in clusters of 3-6 with spiny and hairy husks. May be roasted for eating, but mostly just food for squirrels. Genus is from the Greek *Corylus*, meaning helmet. The specific epithet is the classical name of hazelnut. No serious pests or diseases.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.