



Independence Tree Commission Minutes

August 12, 2026 5:30 PM

Vaile Mansion 1500 N. Liberty, Independence, MO 64050

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Those in attendance were: Charlotte Olejko, David Campbell, Darla Eames, Tim O'Neil, Jim Hannah, Twyla Olson-Hahn, Mike Adams, and guest Sue Evans.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes for the June meeting were read and approved. There was no quorum for the July meeting, therefore there were no July meeting minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Legacy Trees

There was no update on Legacy Trees.

2. Truman Connect Update

The recent update on the Truman Connect is that trees may be planted next month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tree Ordinance

Started reviewing the City of Independence Tree Ordinance. The conversations began with definitions and ended with Sec. 13.02.010 - Tree Commission. We will resume the conversation at next month's meeting. We have made several changes so far. A lot of good input by all members on the revisions.

TREE TALK

Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* — 50–70' high x 20-45' wide. Bronze fall color. Produces cones, hence this is a deciduous conifer. It can grow in wet areas where it will produce knees. This is the state tree of Louisiana. Genus name is from the Latin word *taxus* meaning yew and the Greek word *eidos* meaning resemblance of a similar leaf shape. Specific epithet means it has 2 ranks for the needle arrangement.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.