

CCSE Tree Care / Grounds Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, October 6, 2014

Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Location: Transportation building, 1351 S Morgan St, conference room

Present: Pablo Acevedo, Rick Wanner, Hulliams Kamlem, Fabiola Quiroz, David Lowenstein, Jason Palagi, Cindy Klein-Banai, Kelly Ting

Topics

1. Introductions
2. IDOT update:
 - A total of 160 trees were planted last year. 3 of which had died and another 20 trees are still under continuous monitoring. The 'Redbud spp' (tree species) at University Hall and Van Buren are going to be replaced. There are 3 more tree contracts remaining. 83 trees will be planted for next year. Pablo considered tree project at Lot 1 of ACTB; however, the place needs to be resurfaced and therefore project can only happen next year July/August. So far there is no progress on the space development for Harrison field because the space may be saved for presidential library. Rick suggested planting clusters of tree near the highway signs to block their visibilities and thereby improve campus appearance.
 - Hulliams informed that Geocode is not consistent and accurate. The only and most accurate data it provides is at the University Hospital and the Botanical Grove area. Pablo requested for the inventory of tree done by Geocoding. Kelly will get the information and send it out to Pablo, Rick, and Cindy.
3. Summer 2014 Tree Campus Internship:
 - Hulliams and Alyssa Straits carried out this project based on the previous work completed by some graduate students in 2009. They monitored a total of 290 trees and they were mainly the newly planted trees at West Campus and also the existing IDOT tress at University of Hospitals. The data collected included DBH, height, crown spread, and also the health impact of the trees as calculated using iTree. Hulliams reported of the inconsistent and missing trees. Cindy also agreed that the existing data for campus trees is not accurate because there was no one to consistently update the data when any trees are removed / newly-planted. Kelly will send out a copy of the poster designed by Hulliams and Alyssa related to this summer project.
4. Advanced Chemical Technology Building (ACTB):
 - Cindy provided a copy of the ACTB architecture and landscaping plan for members to review. She had attended a meeting conducted prior to this subcommittee meeting that discussed about site planning of ACTB, and also tree removal and protection plan related to constructions. The new landscaping plan appears to have a net increase of the number of trees, and this plan is in line with UIC's mission of becoming green campus.
5. Service learning project

- Several tree planting projects are been done at Memorial Grove. College of Dentistry is very interested in tree campus project and has participated in the tree planting and tree tagging events. Cindy suggested more projects related to IDOT next spring in 2015.
6. Learning module in Biology introductory class:
- Roberta Mason-Gamer has scheduled a meeting with BioS 101 coordinator, Alan Molumby. About 550-600 students move through that course each year, and provide a good potential audience for a tree-based teaching exercise. Decision still needs to be made to decide if it will be required or voluntary. So far Roberta and Alan have already discussed ideas about what activities this might include. Roberta will provide more updates after her next meeting with Alan.
7. Others:
- Plant materials and native trees at Quad will be removed and new landscaping will be done. Members are hopeful that the planting and improvement project can be done by next year August.
 - Hulliams suggested of using an online survey to encourage student participation and also request their preference of campus trees for the next planting projects.