

Tree Commission Minutes, October 13, 2025
City Hall, Galesburg, Illinois

Meeting was called to order by Ann Pennington at 4:00 pm

Roll Call: Present: Ann Pennington, Pat Trant, Jane Easterly, Dan Thompson, Bill Sime, Arborist Brandon Phillips, Special Projects Coordinator Tom Simkins, and Parks and Recreation Director Don Miles

Absent: none

Minutes: Minutes from the September meeting were approved by a motion from Jane Easterly with a second by Pat Trant.

Forestry Report:

The Forestry Report was presented by Arborist Brandon Phillips. Brandon mentioned that the brush drop off site is getting very full on the west side. The east side may have to be utilized before the grinding happens next spring. It was also mentioned that with it being so dry, it is a very dusty process grinding stumps.

Old Business:

Director Miles gave an update on the revitalization plan for Standish Arboretum. The consultants specified thirty trees that will need to be removed due to several issues, along with all the low growing bushes. The remaining trees will require the canopies to be raised to fifteen feet above ground to allow for an improved line of sight throughout the park. The work will be completed this winter by City staff. It was also noted that most of the improvements would be happening in or along the east quadrant.

Ann Pennington mentioned that there was a great turnout for the Gateway 2 Community Fair held at Knox College last month. Many students were interested in planting trees, but transportation was a major roadblock.

There was also a short discussion about a 'We Are Galesburg' post on Facebook that seemed to put a negative spin on Standish Arboretum. The post stated that many tree tags were missing and the maps were not up to date and needed replaced. Staff will remove the maps from all stands. Once the project is completed, the future of the tags and maps will be discussed.

New Business:

Tom Simkins discussed Project 350 and its progress during 2025. Over the first three years 479 trees were planted, representing 98 different species. By the end of this year, there will be over 700 trees planted. There are two more rounds of tree plantings this fall, with one being at Cooke Park, once construction work gets done in the areas where the trees need to be planted.

Ann Pennigton asked if someone that had an ash tree removed years ago could still request a tree for replacement. The answer was yes, and Tom Simkins would be able to take care of the request.

Citizen Comments:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Miles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Don Miles, Parks and Recreation Director