

Tree Commission Minutes, June 8, 2026
City Hall, Galesburg, Illinois

Call to Order: Ann Pennington called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

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

Absent: Dan Thompson

Minutes:

Minutes from the May 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. Jane asked where the park trees removed were located. Brandon stated that there were several at Lake Storey near the picnic shelters and some in Lincoln Park. Jane also asked if there were still ash trees around. It was stated that the city still has many ash trees that we are still being treated for the ash borer.

Old Business:

Brandon told members that the dirt work at Standish was completed with six truckloads of dirt. The rain has not been consistent enough to germinate the seed.

New Business:

Questions were asked about the revitalization project announced last week for Standish. Commissioners are concerned since the arboretum is part of their purview. Director Miles stated that most of the project is focused on the eastern half of the park and that designs have not been finalized. As plans become firmer, he would provide information to the commission.

Jane mentioned that the NAACP will be having their annual picnic at Kiwanis Park on August 8th. She thought that it may be a good time to set up a booth for information about planting trees.

Tom Simkins gave an update on Project 350 (aka 1,000) as there is a push to get to 1,000 trees planted by this fall. There have been 122 trees planted already this year. He also stated that several trees may be lost due to some confusion by the person watering trees. The issue has been corrected, but it is disappointing to lose some very nice trees.

Citizen Comments:

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:34 P.M.

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

Don Miles, Parks and Recreation Director