

Tree Allies Minutes – October 8, 2025

Attendance: Mike Beam, Tim Lambard, Grace Brenzek, Bernie Denning, Mallory Abel, Heidi Boyle (online), Linda Straub, Kim Sauro, and Kim's daughter.

1. President Mallory Abel made a motion to approve the September 2025 Tree Allies meeting minutes as amended (fixing typos in names, particularly McNulty). Linda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0 (Bernie, Mallory, Heidi, Linda).
2. The group discussed recent events the Allies have participated in (town parade, town festival, Robey PTO Fall Festival). Linda said a neighbor told her she was happy with seeing the Allies at Robey PTO Fall Festival. Mallory and Mike agreed the fall festival was successful (many children did activities at the Allies booth).
 - a. Mike said it would be better practice going forward for the town to have an agreement for situations where trees get planted on private property by the Allies. This is so the public investment is upheld and the trees are properly cared for. Mike has seen examples from New England and plans to bring that info.
 - b. Bernie thinks the serviceberry initially planned to be planted after the parade would be better at Miller Park, not at the original location (hair salon on Crawfordsville Road). The group discussed having a master plan and processes in place so that there is no second-guessing when the Allies have determined tree types and where they will be planted going forward, particularly because the location of the serviceberry had been shared among the group ahead of time. The group agreed that the salon was already given an expectation a tree would be planted, and so the Allies will plant a different species there on November 1 as part of the Fall Tree Sale Distribution event. Bernie will try to get an expert opinion on a tree selection tomorrow and will share the option(s) with the group. It was expected the new tree will be one that is purchased by the town as part of the town tree sale. Grace reported that the Allies have spent \$684 of budgeted \$750 for events, and the money for the new tree can be paid from that allocation.
3. Town Council Member and Facilities Maintenance Kim Sauro arrived and requested the Tree Allies' help with several items.
 - a. Kim proposed the Allies work on producing tree ID tags or signs in Miller Park so the public can know about the trees and become more educated about them. She also suggested some educational signage about all the plants that people can find in the park. The general consensus that it is a worthwhile project, and the Allies agreed to work on it.
 - b. Kim said she would like Tree Allies advice on the trees at Miller Park. She would like evaluations of trees to guide decisions on potential pruning or removal. It

should be comprehensive with a vision for whether specific trees are better quality trees and should be given more space. Heidi, Larry, and Bernie have been previously assigned as the tree evaluation team. The group discussed requesting Indianapolis city forester Chris Flanagan's help to give professional-level advice and to have the evaluation team go along to learn and make quality notes for developing the Miller Park tree plan. Tim suggested that an arborist the town has used for tree work previously could be an alternative. Mike said that he would follow up with Chris Flanagan to see if Flanagan would be interested and to find out what he might charge, and Mike suggested Tim or Kim to do the same for the other arborist.

- c. Kim shared that IU West Hospital will be sending 100-150 volunteers to Clermont on October 17 to do community service projects. She asked if members of the Tree Allies would help with a project to convert lawn grass into landscaped areas along Crawfordsville Road near center of town. She would like help with plant species and arrangement, as well as leaders during the volunteer day. Heidi and Bernie said they will help, and Linda and Mallory were maybes.
- 4. Resident Grace Brenzek has been attending and participating in Tree Allies activities for several months as an unofficial member of the Tree Allies and has expressed interest in joining officially. The Allies have one opening to grow to the limit of 11 members. Linda made a motion to approve Grace Brenzek as a new member of the tree board. Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0 (Bernie, Mallory, Heidi, Linda). Mike said he may need to have town council approve her too.
 - a. Mike gave an update on the tree sale. There have been fewer than 10 orders so far, with one week left until the sale ends. He shared details about the distribution event: Saturday, November 1, from 8 to 9:30 a.m., at Miller Park. Tree planting demonstrations are at 8:15 and 8:45. One tree to be planted will be the serviceberry originally planned for the hair salon. The other will be determined later. The new tree for by the salon will also be planted, possibly after the distribution. The event will be low key due to small order numbers. Mike, Heidi, and Bernie said they will be there to run the event.
- 5. Tree Allies member Larry Beiter was not present to provide an update on KIB tree planting proposals. Mallory mentioned Larry sent the group an email with the latest news, and she'll check that everyone received it so it can be discussed at a later time.
- 6. Due to the meeting running long, the group held off on discussing 2026 goals.
- 7. Heidi gave kudos to Tim for helping with the parade.
- 8. Mallory moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Bernie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0 (Bernie, Mallory, Heidi, Linda).