



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: September 2, 2025

Prepared By: Mayor Liliya Stevens

Agenda Item: Appointment to the Tree Board

Explanation: The Tree Board consists of a minimum of five (5) members who shall be residents or employees of the City. The Tree Board shall be responsible for making recommendations to the City Council for all regulations concerning trees on public property along with establishing educational and informational programs.

At the August 18, 2025 City Council meeting, Alderpersons approved my recommendations to appoint Katie Beale, Lisa Sherman, Brian Tibbs and Randey Wall to the Tree Board. With my appointment of Brittany Miller and Cindy Roesse to the Tree Board we will have six (6) members, one (1) more than the minimum number needed for the Tree Board to conduct business.

Cindy Roesse is a Washington resident and member of the Washington Town & Country Garden Club, an organization with an interest in civic beautification, and one of the three entities partnered with the Washington Park District and City of Washington's successful 200 trees by 2025 Bicentennial Project. Cindy's membership in the Garden Club is complimentary to being a board member of the Tree Board. An example: From the Municipal Code describing one of the Tree Board duties: (5) Establishment of educational and informational programs. This duty is complimentary to Town & Country Gardeners organization, who often host speakers and offer workshops. In addition to gardening, Cindy is a native plant enthusiast who believes we should do what we can to preserve nature in our town.

Brittany Miller is a Washington resident and is a current Washington Park Board Commissioner. Brittany has experience as a co-owner of Blooming Basket Farm, 2016-2018, a sustainable hobby farm, market, and CSA. Brittany brings experience from being on the Washington Park Board since 2019. The Park District one of the three entities involved in the 200 trees by 2025 Bicentennial Project, an initiative spearheaded by the Washington Park District, partnering with the City of Washington and the Town & Country Garden Club.

Fiscal Impact: The Tree Board positions are volunteer service positions which do not have expenses directly associated with these appointments other than potential expenses of the Tree Board itself. I very much appreciate the willingness of our residents to serve the City of Washington.

Action Requested: City Council approval of the appointments of Brittany Miller and Cindy Roesse.