

Important Notice from IUFC's Board of Directors

The Indiana Urban Forest Council would like to thank all of our members and supporters over the last 26 years. We so appreciate and value all of you who have supported our mission to expand and improve our urban forests.

Unfortunately, as we continue to face increasing challenges and reductions in the municipal arborcare industry, we find that our agency is no longer able to function effectively. Therefore, after much deliberation on input from our Executive Director, our Board Advisory Committee, and our membership, the IUFC Board of Directors has unanimously approved a decision to dissolve IUFC as of October 31st, 2016.

Prior to this decision, we spent considerable time discussing and researching options with members of our Board Advisory Committee, our general membership, our partner organizations, and other 501c3 non-profit groups. The analysis is consistent that current trends are likely to continue. IUFC has functioned without a fully operating panel of officers and directors for over 2 years. In reflecting on this and finding no willing and able replacements, dissolution is the most sensible course of action.

Please know that no one has taken this decision lightly. We are all heavy of heart as we present this news, but genuinely believe that the best way possible to continue our mission is to focus on supporting other non-profits with greater resources who share our ideas and are willing to carry our mission forward.

In preparation for dissolution, our Executive Director and Board Members have drafted plans to fulfill our incomplete grant obligations. We have also drafted a plan to bridge our mission to others. These plans are summarized as follows:

-Tree Board Roundtable and Street Tree Update Programs: MOU between IUFC and the Indiana Arborist Association.

-Leaves of Faith Program: MOU between IUFC and Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light.

-Managing Operations after October 31st, 2016 (CUF grant completion, overseeing treasury, staff and wind up operations through FY17, filing tax forms for FY16, FY17 and FY18 if necessary): MOU with Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light.

Additionally for your review, the steps for dissolution are summarized below:

1. Board approval of proposal to dissolve (done October 3, 2016).
2. Inform membership of intent to dissolve, and of plans for post dissolution fulfillment of obligations (today, October 12, 2016).
3. File appropriate forms with state agencies as required (before the official dissolution date October 31, 2016).
4. Wind up mode – (November 1, 2016 - on) finish obligations as outlined in MOUs, pay off any debts and distribute remaining assets.

Any questions or comments you may have can be directed to current Board President:

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Again, thank you so much for investing in IUFC. We are proud of what we have accomplished throughout the years and could not have done any of it without our wonderful members and volunteers. You have made a difference and the work continues. We hope that you will remain engaged by supporting trees and tree care locally and at the state & Federal level. Please continue to share the importance of caring for canopies in all your endeavors. Trees will always need advocates!

Yours in urban forestry,

Holly Jones, Executive Director
Ben Lockwood, IUFC Board President
Angie Wiliford, Administrative Assistant



