



TREE COMMISSION MINUTES October 24, 2023

Present: Garrett Price, Christy Syfert, Polly Seum, Tim Miklasiewicz, Denton Kitts (Parks and Rec Assistant), Linda Granger (Parks and Rec Director)

Absent: Alistair Reynolds (ODNR Forester), Mary McGrath

Visitors: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

Minutes from the September 20, 2023, meeting were approved with no changes.

Agenda for the meeting was approved.

Village Report

- Tree Ordinance Update
 - Final approval was given by Council on October 9, 2023.
- Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference
 - Mr. Kitts and Mr. Miklasiewicz attended. Mr. Miklasiewicz provided feedback about the topics covered including planting guidelines and changes, as well as an update on the spotted lantern.
- Outcome of Maren Preserve Feedback
 - Developers are committed to providing more species diversity in their planting plan. The Tree Commission will be provided an updated version for tree inventory purposes.
- Preferred Tree List Updates
 - Mr. Miklasiewicz and Mr. Kitts will meet in the upcoming weeks to work on some changes to the list, in addition to reformatting.
 - The village is possibly looking at adding the list on the webpage with clickable links that will lead to information cards about each tree species.
- Darby Nature Preserve Project Update
 - Mr. Kitts met with the Tolles students on the property twice in the past month. The first time to walk the property, discuss the scope of work and get the students thinking about appropriate trees to plant. The second meeting the students got some hands-on work removing invasive honeysuckle and pruning some dead branches on trees.
 - If weather permits, the students will be planting some trees next meeting in early November. If it gets too cold, they will continue invasive removal and pruning.
 - Letters were mailed to residents on Jackson St. informing them of the new nature preserve. A meeting was held with some of the homeowners to answer questions; continued conversations will be had, if needed, specifically if fencing will be erected.

- Farmers Market Table
 - Mrs. Seum and Mr. Kitts staffed a table at two Farmers Markets 9/21 and 9/28 with information from the tree commission including the tree planting guide, tree commission brochure, and new tree commission business cards.
 - The Commission also had a giveaway for a free tree. The winner has elected to have the tree planted in Pastime Park as a memorial tree and will be purchasing a plaque and stand separately through the Village.
 - The idea was proposed to also provide tree protection equipment with future tree giveaways.

Old Business

- Tree City USA Application Status
 - Since the tree ordinance passed and is the final part needed, the application has been started. Mr. Kitts is working to compile some of the statistics and budget information requested in the application. Mr. Reynolds will provide a final review prior to submission.
- Commission Member Feedback on Tree Planting Guide
 - Changes suggested by Mr. Miklasiewicz have been made to the guide, including some grammar and wording changes. Addition of a page talking about pests and preventing deer damage have been added.
 - Mr. Kitts will email the updated Tree Guide to the members for further feedback.

New Business

- Beachy Farms Preliminary Development Plan
 - First submission of plans were reviewed. Plans outline the placement of street and open space trees, but at this time does not currently list the types of trees proposed.
 - The Village Planner will forward along the compiled Tree List once finished to the developer. This development will be several years out, so there is time to make more specific recommendations.
- Commission members agreed to cancel the 12/26/23 Tree Commission Meeting due to its proximity to the holiday. The 11/28/23 meeting would be the final one of the year. It was suggested that the last meeting of the year be spent brainstorming 2024 activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Future Discussion Topics

Planning for 2024 Tree Commission Activities

Review completions of Tree City USA application

Review of new development landscape plans