



TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 09, 2023

Present: Garrett Price, Mary McGrath, Christy Syfert, Polly Seum, Tim Miklasiewicz, Denton Kitts (Parks and Rec Assistant), Linda Granger (Parks and Rec Director), Alistair Reynolds (ODNR Forester)

Visitors: Frank Reed (Plain City Council)

The meeting was called to order by Linda Granger at 5:33 pm.

Introductions were given by each in attendance.

Village Report

Earth Day event was held on April 22nd at Pastime Park and consisted of giving away 1800 native trees. Trees were donated from Green Columbus, each 12-18 inches tall. Approximately 300 residents took part in the event. Madison County Master Gardeners and OSU Ext gave away free garden seeds as well.

Plain City's Arbor Day event was April 28th at Pastime Park. A tree planting ceremony was held; State Senator Stephanie Kunze was in attendance. Students from Tolles Technical Center Outdoor Careers Program planted a white oak by the south shelter.

The M/I Restoration project was granted \$31K towards invasive removal, trees and prairie replanting. Project is slated to begin in August 2023. The village will again partner with students from Tolles Technical Center Outdoor Careers Program in removing invasives, as well as creating a nature area and fishing pond area. Future possibility of connecting with the Heritage Trail.

Possible Grant Funding options were also discussed:

- USFS Grant for Urban & Community Forestry deadline is June 1, 2023. Grant details are \$100K minimum, spent over 5 years with a 50% match.
- Details and timing of the ODNR grant are forthcoming and will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Urban Canopy Restoration grant deadline is October 2023. Grant details are \$25K with a 50% match.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

ODNR Advisor Alistair Reynolds took the members through the requirements of the Duties of the Tree Commission as well as the requirements to become a Tree City USA:

1. Tree Board or Commission, that serves with at least 6 meetings a year
2. Community Tree Ordinance
3. \$2 per capita on Urban Forestry
4. Arbor Day Celebration

The Tree Commission will also have the duties of reviewing landscaping plans submitted by new developments within the village limits. The process for when and how these plans will be submitted for review will be coordinated by the Parks and Rec staff.

Appointments to the Tree Commission were made and approved by all commission members, granting the following seats:

- Chair: Garrett Price
- Co-Chair: Mary McGrath
- Secretary: Christy Syfert

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm.

Future Discussion Topics

Tree Ordinance

Strategic Plan

Tree Inventory