



TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

June 27, 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: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

Minutes from the May 9, 2023 meeting were approved with no changes.

Agenda for the meeting was approved with no changes.

Village Report

- Grant Status
 - USFS Grand for Urban & Community Forestry – Grant was submitted; possible to hear status in August or September. Village applied for \$100k “match” grant over 5 years. Grant would assist with Urban Forestry program, tree survey and tree maintenance and planning.
 - Urban Canopy Restoration (10/2023 deadline) – Not yet announced; Mr. Reynolds will keep Mr. Kitts apprised.
 - Ohio Environmental Education Fund Grant (Received May 2023) – Grant (\$31k) was received and will fund the project with Tolles outdoor students for the nature preserve in Fall 2023.
- Memorial Tree Program Update
 - Eight new trees have been planted in the park in the past couple of months. Parks staff are looking at partnership with Acorn Farms for future inventory. The village currently has no max on how many trees could be planted through this program; possible future tree survey could help assist with planning.

ODNR Update

- Mr. Reynolds is organizing a Municipal nursery tour on July 19, 2023.
- The Fall conference will be held on October 12 at Capital University. Registration to attend would be covered by Tree Commission budget.

Old Business – N/A

New Business

- Tree Ordinance Discussion
 - Tree Preservation ordinance established “Tree Fund”.
 - Tree Ordinance can and should reference Tree Preservation Ordinance but be kept separately. Ms. Granger and Mr. Kitts will review the Preservation Ordinance for more possible needed cross-references with the Tree Ordinance.

- HOA plans are a separate entity and would fall under zoning.
- Update Development Guidelines to include Due By dates.
- Mr. Kitts will look into a Public Right of Ways map for future reference.
- Commission Goals
 - 3 Month
 - Tree ordinance passed.
 - 2024 budget passed. \$4k budget for tree commission will cover training, trees and tools, including Arbor Day activities and public events. This budget is separate from Tree Maintenance budget.
 - Participation in community events.
 - Tree lists for village assembled (both desirable and undesirable). Mr. Reynolds can assist with collecting.
 - Tree Commission page posted on new village website, including approved contractors and tree lists.
 - 6 Month
 - Tree City USA submission
 - Continued budget planning
 - 12 Month
 - Master Planning Guide
 - Parks Master Plan update should reference Tree Ordinance
 - Tree Survey
- Member discussion
 - Members discussed possible ways for Tree Commission to be involved in community events. Possible events could include:
 - Farm Market
 - Fall Fest
 - Music in the Park
 - Touch A Truck
 - Community tree photography contest
 - Invite to Adult programing and lectures/visitors at Tolles
 - Madison Meadows will be installing a park, including a community shelter, t-ball fields and restrooms. Plans for the park will be reviewed by the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Future Discussion Topics

ODNR Update at each meeting

2024 Budget

Tree Ordinance changes