



## **TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

### **September 20, 2023**

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

**Absent:** Alistair Reynolds (ODNR Forester)

**Visitors:** None

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.

The meeting began with an introduction at the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z). Tree Commission feedback on the Maren Reserve Landscape Plan was provided, as follows:

1. First, we would like to applaud the number of trees going into the development, this appears to be one of the more robust planting plans in Plain City.
2. In Exhibits G2, G3 and G4 there are multiple areas where large amounts of the same type of tree are planted as street trees. While we understand the aesthetic appeal of having uniform similar trees, we would recommend breaking them up into groups of no more than 12 if possible.
3. There is a large amount of Sienna Glen Maples (AC SI – 157), Rockford London Planetrees (PL AC – 159), and Princeton Elms (UL AM – 205). We would prefer more tree diversity if there was any way to maybe replace these trees with another similar sized street tree not already included in the development. I have attached our “Preferred Tree List” which is in the process of being updated, along with a draft tree list to give you some ideas of alternatives. Also, to note, the Princeton Elms, while fast growing trees, are often leggy and require excessive pruning, so they probably aren’t our Public Works crew’s favorite.

Minutes from the August 22, 2023, meeting were approved with no changes.

Agenda for the meeting was approved.

#### **Village Report**

- Tree Ordinance will have its first reading at the 9/25/23 Council Meeting. Mr. Kitts will be in attendance to answer any questions. The second reading will be two weeks after that meeting. Mr. Kitts will provide the committee the final approved Ordinance.
- The village was not chosen as a recipient for the USFS Grant.
- The Tree Commission brochure, business cards, and tree planting guide were all reviewed. Members will bring feedback to the October 2023 meeting. Mr. Kitts will check with ODNR regarding the use of their logo.

#### **ODNR Update**

- Mr. Reynolds was not in attendance.
- The Central Ohio Urban Forestry Conference will be held on October 12 from 8:30-3:00pm. Members were to reach out directly to Mr. Kitts if they were interested in attending.

## **New Business**

- Development Update:
  - Mr. Kitts and Ms. Granger are working on Developer Guidelines & Best Practices
  - Future development reviews will include:
    - Jackson Street Dog Park
    - Nature Preserve – Possible future trailhead for Heritage Trail. Budget is currently \$100k for shelter and gravel parking.
    - Madison Meadows – Currently under construction
    - The Spot – Preliminary plans have been sent, but not specific trees yet
- Preferred Tree List – Mr. Miklasiewicz has some updates and will email them to the members and Mr. Kitts. Tree list should include descriptions of trees, including colors, nut/seeds, etc.
- Planning for 2024 Arbor Day is underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.

## **Future Discussion Topics**

Review completions of Tree City USA application

Final Tree Ordinance approval from City Council

Review of new development landscape plans