

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

January 23, 2024

Present: Garrett Price, Christy Syfert, Mary McGrath, Polly Seum, Tim Miklasiewicz, Denton Kitts, Linda Granger, Alistair Reynolds (ODNR)

Visitors: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.

Minutes from the November 28, 2023, meeting were approved with changes to the ODNR Urban Forest Coordinator position title.

Agenda for the meeting was approved.

Village Report

- The approval process for the Tree City USA applications started; March is the deadline for Arbor Day to approve applications.
- Mr. Kitts presented the Municipal Arboretum concept and stated the village would like to pursue Pastime Park to be an official arboretum. Requirements to become an arboretum include: having at least 25 species of trees, hosting at least one public program, and labeling/identifying trees.
- Mr. Kitts reviewed the village's current 2024 calendar of events, which include Earth Day and Arbor Day activities.
 - Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration will be April 22, including a tree giveaway. Tree Commission members will discuss coordination of the giveaway at the February and March meetings.
 - Arbor Day tree planting ceremony will be April 26, currently planned at Pastime Park. Parks and Rec members are considering moving the ceremony to have a tree planting at the elementary school for students to be more involved.
 - Leftover trees could be given to Tolles as well, to plant in their greenhouse.
 - A tree photography contest is being considered, beginning during Arbor Day week and having judging during July 4th celebrations. Mr. Kitts and Ms. Grainger will brainstorm and email commission members for feedback.
 - The library will be involved in the week's activities as well by featuring a tree-related children's book in the Story Walk at the Pastime Park. Tree-related books will also be displayed at the library.
- The Memorial Tree program did well in 2023; 10 trees were purchased and planted. Mr. Kitts will be updating the program guide and the price will remain \$300 for the near future.

ODNR Update

- Tree City USA awards ceremony will be held on May 9, 2024, in Worthington.
- The new Urban Forest Coordinator position has been filled. Carrie Morrow, previously with Metro Parks, started in January 2024.

- Tree prices are expected to increase in 2024, due to the lack of planting during COVID.
- House Bill 364 was introduced and will affect non-commercial seed sharing.

Old Business

- The tree planting guide was reviewed and will be updated to expand the Soil Preparation section. Mr. Kitts will review where the tree guide lives on the village website to ensure its easily accessible.

New Business

- Ms. Granger will be scheduling young tree training.
- Mr. Kitts will be coordinating a meeting with Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Miklasiewicz to complete the recommended tree list posted on the village website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Future Discussion Topics

Arbor Day tree giveaway coordination

Further planning for 2024 Tree Commission Activities

Review of new development landscape plans