

Shade Tree Commission Meeting 8-8-2024

1. Establish Quorum

Members present: Christine Fahl, Tristan Kinnison , Michael Lincoln and Gene Deubler. New member Joanna Sokol will join us at the next meeting. David Riggs absent.

We are still looking for 2 alternate members, so please email Christine

Fahl

at cfahl123@gmail.com if you are interested.

Alternates participate in every way except voting.

2. Disposition of Minutes for meeting June 13, 2024.

Michael Lincoln moved to accept.

Sam Kinnison seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land

Permit application for 19 Joneswood.

Christine Fahl moved to approve. Tristan Kinnison seconded. Permit approved.

- New pollinator program in the works. We will let you know when it's ready.
- **Tree removal requests.**
 - -Application from 80 Court St. Athens City Safety director requested that we deny and suggested to the applicant alternate ways to deal with the issues.
Christine Fahl motioned to deny. Gene Thompson seconded.
Application denied. City will communicate with applicant.
 - Eden Ave. request to remove. Tree is half dying.
This one is a health and safety issue.
Tristan Kinnison will check the tree in question tomorrow.
(The city planted Norway maples, and many are getting old and dying.)

4. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues

No discussion.

5. Maintenance of the Tree Canopy

- Drought and tree protection discussion and concerns
 - Concern about the drought...especially the smaller trees.
 - Most trees in the last 3-5 years are struggling.
 - Talk to recreation and land use and talk about proper tree care.
 - Oaks on State Street that were planted this year. Many of them are dying because they haven't been watered.
 - Trees need 10-15 gallons of water a week. We need to plant with sustained after care plan.

- Discussion of best management practices by West Union Street contractors.
- Christine will contract recreation person and have a meeting to discover what they are doing currently.
- Not enough resources to maintain the tree canopy. Heat zones and heat disparities.
- We should jump on opportunity to disseminate information.
- Discussion of invasives and how we might help community members with knowledge. Upload information on our web page.
 - There are Kudzu, Tree of Heaven, oriental bittersweet and vine invasives in many locations.
 - Perhaps we could hold a workshop on invasive vine removal.
 - There will be the ODNR tree care meeting October 24.

6. New Business Committees.

- Arbor Day – separate day, just in the fall.
- Resources and public information – yard signs at trees that we planted, posters, brochures in community center, etc.
- General lack of communication.
- Gene would be interested in starting a public information committee.
 - Start with drought issues for trees.
 - Get it put on the website through Scott.
 - Possible use of sign in front of the community center – “Severe drought – water your trees”.
- Glen Matlack – urban ecology. Two students doing urban tree issues.
- Possible research into stronger tree protection. Other cities that are doing well. We can demonstrate that there is precedent and improve ours.
- Christine is meeting with Michael Wood, STC’s representative to City council.
- Christine will do legislation committee.
- Grant writing.
- Look into getting a student intern.
- Discussion of protocol for mapping trees. Data collection has to be done. Plant map was suggested. Help anyone identify trees and map.
 - How to distribute the information.
 - Tristan is good with GIS. Create a KML of street trees.
 - This would likely be the purview of the city planner.
- Christine is working with Scott XXXX to get money for educational equipment.

7. Old Business

- Arbor Day. Andrew Chiki will lead. Christine will contact him about days.

- Working with Mary XXXX to get neighborhood trees planted. 20 trees available.
Code enforcement is the place to know.
Timing later, probably late Oct or Nov.
- Videos – did one. Sustainability PSA fest idea.
- Update Code.
 - Committees can do that.
- Next meeting Sept. 12. A lot more dates.
 - Code office is working on job form.

Michael motioned to adjourn. Gene seconded. Adjourned.