

Shade Tree Commission Meeting 9-12-2024

1. Establish Quorum

Members present: Christine Fahl, Tristan Kinnison , Michael Lincoln
Gene Deubler, Joanna Sokol, Michael Wood, David Riggs.

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 Augst 8, 2024.

Michael Lincoln moved to accept.

Gene Deubler seconded. Minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Jen Bowman. Director of Environmental Programs, Voinovich School

- Request funding for tree planting along Hocking River to match grant from Ohio EPA for \$700.
- Behind community center, downstream toward soccer fields. 20-30 trees. 3rd year of planting along the river.
- Trees filter pollutants, which is why we plant along the river.
- Nov. 2. All volunteer crew. OU Dad's weekend. Usually have 30-40 people.
 - Plant, stake, deer guard and mulch. Last year it took about 2 hours.
 - Greenleaf has been approached for estimate on floodplain species like swamp white oak, pin oak, river birch, sycamore, maybe cypress.
 - 5 gallons with tree tubes and staked. Last year 5-12 gallons, which takes a lot of people to move.
- All first-year tress planted survived. One died from last year and Greenleaf will replace it. First year stakes will be taken off while planting this year.
- Will be Arbor Day celebration. Mayor attends and proclamation.
- Use 20 trees from Menard's tree bank. Order ASAP.
 - We need to specify native species.
- Ann will send her list to David Riggs and he will see what he can get from Menard's.

4. Maintenance of tree canopy

No issues.

• Code changes

- Make pollinator program easier to run. Code 3702-04.
- In essence the code says the City will use a non-profit organization to certify pollinator front yards. Develop language with Debby and Lisa Eliason.

- Check the Title 9 (grass cutting and noxious weeds) for exemptions. David Riggs office suggested adding another exemption for unimproved lots bigger than an acre, to benefit pollinators, possibly mowed once or twice a year.
- Noxious weeds control is a state regulation, so that can't be changed.
- 37 people complained about long grass.
- Christine suggested that the pollinator front yard program be open to as many people as possible.
- What protections do renters have from the owners who want to keep lawns mowed?
- Properties that are exempt under title 41 should be required to do a landscape plan. (Commercial and multi-family.) So everyone has to do a landscape review. Case by case basis on 5,000sf and above.
- In the past we've allowed trees instead of parking.
- Title 3701-01, subparagraph B, landscaping regulations. This commission only sees plans that go through the planning commission so we must coordinate with them.
- Discussion of how to approach manufacturing property for landscaping.
- Christine will work on David Riggs and Lisa Eliason to develop language.

5. Drought

- USDA declared 22 Ohio counties emergency natural disaster areas because of drought.
- Urban canopy trees are very stressed, losing root mass, etc.
- Ripple effects in the next few years.
- Establish an emergency tree maintenance program?
 - Public works department could use their water truck.
- Did a message about drought appear on the Community center digital marquee? Christine will check and suggest it appear again.
- How long should you water a tree?
 - Younger – 5 gallons per caliper inch per week.
 - Older mature trees need less; 15-20 minutes of continuous watering.
- Could the public works water tank be used for the Nov. 2 tree planting?
- Could it be used to water stressed street trees? Talk with Andy Stone, Service-Safety Director.

6. New Fire House

- City will follow landscape plan ordinances when planting next spring.
 - We'd like it to include education, natives and deer resistant planting.
- **Next meeting Oct. 10.**

Gene motioned to adjourn. Christine seconded. Adjourned.