

## **Shade Tree Commission Meeting 1-9-2024**

### **1. Establish Quorum**

Members present: Tristan Kinnison, Michael Lincoln, Gene Deubler, Joanna Sokol

- As our Chair Christine Fahl is out of town, Gene Deubler made a motion to select Tristan Kinnison as temporary Chair for this meeting.
- Tristan Kinnison moved to accept.
- Joanna Sokol seconded. Motion approved.

### **2. Disposition of Minutes for meeting November 14, 2024.**

- The minutes were not distributed to the members.
- Nov. 14 minutes will be approved at next meeting.
- Tristan discovered that there are no minutes posted on the STC website since 2022, so we'd like to clean up our processes of making sure minutes are distributed and posted. See new business.

### **3. Christine Fahl membership is up, and this would be her last meeting, but she is seeking reappointment. We assume that will happen by next meeting.**

### **4. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land**

- Athens Independent report on removal of blue spruce at pool for use as Christmas tree.
- City removed blue spruce because it was diseased but they did not seek STC's consultation. The committee believes Title 33 states they should have.
- Calls up an underlying issue with city for lack of communication with STC. We'd like to improve transparency and communication.

### **3. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**

- New E. State Chipotle Shade Tree requirement
- No communication with STC. Stated in Title 37. 1500-2700 square feet requires a tree. Rough guess that the site is an acre in which case the ordinance states they should plant 40 large shade trees or 80 medium to small.
- Penalties could be \$100 a day until, but we'd prefer to work with Dave Riggs to see if a solution can be agreed upon before any fines.
- Again, transparency and communication are lacking. Planning and Zoning is the approving body. Code enforcement would have to site them. Contact owner/developer.
- We'd like to form a subcommittee to improve this process.
- STC also needs to do more background work between monthly meetings to improve our information flow and efficiency.

#### 4. Maintenance of Tree Canopy

- Establish a subcommittee for city policies. Ordinances don't have teeth.
- Models around the country of cities that are enforcing that we could use.

#### 5. OLD BUSINESS

- 2025 STC Goals
  - Policy oriented subcommittee that would research other city plans.
  - Revise the strong foundation that exists.
  - Gene motioned to establish a subcommittee and he would be willing to Chair. Tristan seconded. Approved.
- Subcommittee to improve communication. Tristan would chair.
  - Andy stone, Dave Riggs and Andrew Chiki
  - Botanical code for vacant lots. Tree of Heaven, Bamboo and Oriental Bittersweet are big issues.
  - Tristan motioned; Joanna seconded. Approved.
- Gene has been talking to Ann Bonner at ODNR. There may be resources available from IRA funding that may be useful to control invasives.
  - Tristan motioned to create a subcommittee for researching grant funding.
  - Gene is willing to head it. **Joana seconded**. Approved.
- Joana suggested reexamining the shade tree list on our site and make sure it's still relevant.
- Patty Witmer retired. Our site directs to her email. We need to update.
  - Monica Flowers is replacing Patty. Email Mflower@sci.oh
  - Check the website and revise, have more contact info available, such as new committees listed with contact information for the chair.
  - Joanna agreed to chair committee to update and monitor the website.
  - Tristan motioned to establish that committee. Gene seconded. Approved.
  - Minutes should be uploaded to the site on CivicClerk

#### GOALS

- **Establish Year of the tree committee?**
- Training for code inspectors on noxious weeds
- Updating contact info on STC site
- "Branding"
- Memo of Understanding with city/university/county on pollinator habitat
  - Check with Christine.

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS

- Valvoline STC guidance, sought us out in September and we apparently dropped the ball. We need to circle back to then.
  - How we communicate?
  - Is it too late for STC to get involved? Luke Kelly reached out.

## **7. Announcements and Other Business**

- Gene will be tree commission academy hosted by Ann Bonner in McConnellsville. He will bring information back to next meeting.

## **8. Adjournment**

Michael motioned to adjourn. Gene seconded. Meeting adjourned.

**Next scheduled meeting Feb 13**