

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes 2-13-2025

1. Establish Quorum

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

2. Disposition of Minutes for January 14, 2025 meeting.

- Motion to accept: Tristan Kinnison Second: Gene Deubler
- Passed

3. Summary of proposed Code edits

- Broaden pollinator program
 - a. Changes wording to allow renters to participate.
 - b. No \$25 fee.
 - c. Warning flags for no pesticide.
- Title 41
 - a. Exempts small developments for being responsible.
 - b. Small lots should pay attention to ordinances.
 - c. Give money to tree bank if they don't want to plant trees.
- Title 9
 - a. Specify *which* list we adhere to. Tristan thinks we should adhere to state list.
 - b. Large lots that shouldn't have to be mowed.
- Christine suggests we go forward with the proposed edit.
 - a. Go to Lisa first to check legality. Mike Wood would sponsor to Council.
- Motion to approve: Tristan Kinnison. Seconded: Gene Deubler
- Passed

4. Last meeting outcomes. New committees suggested.

- Website update and maintenance (Joanna).
- Improve communication with Council and other bodies (Joanna).
- Grant opportunities (Gene).
- Policy committee (Gene).

5. Establish calendar with all events and deadlines.

- 1st Earth Day sustainability conference at OU.
- Eva Miller, guest, sophomore in environmental studies and sustainability.
 - b. Eva proposes developing a neighborhood tree tour with resident engagement. And develop a tree inventory and plan.
 - c. Demonstrate to residents with something like a bio blitz.
 - d. Eva proposes last weekend in March, or first weekend in April. Needs to be before April 8, student expo.
 - e. Set up a pilot for tree plan. Citizen science.
 - f. Christine will work with Eva to develop some brochures. Tristan would help.
 - g. We don't need a vote.

- Gene: maintenance of canopy. Themes of season, Spring – planting, fertilizing. Summer - water. Fall – pruning, etc.
- Apply for Arbor Day funding in fall.
- Planting Days
- Athens beautification. Consult Mary Reed.
- Year of the Tree. Check with sustainability and OU.

6. The grant that Gene proposed at last meeting should be tabled. He has been told that the funds will be frozen, so we shouldn't waste our time.

7. New Business

- Title 33 tree preservation ordinance. Gene notes that currently the City is contracting with Greenleaf Landscape for tree maintenance. The company has no ISA certified arborists on staff. Gene proposes that STC maintain a list of qualifications for these positions and that we could reach out to folks who may qualify.
- Establish invasive species training.
 - a. David Riggs said the City gets complaints about knotweed and invasive bamboo.
 - b. How do you get rid of it? How do you control?
 - c. We could post handouts on the STC webpage.
 - d. Would the city allow herbicides?
 - e. It was noted that Ivy, bittersweet and kudzu bring down trees, but knotweed doesn't harm trees.
- Develop brochures and trifold.
 - a. Gene volunteered to identify someone who could create them.
 - b. Use at Sustainability fair. Monday, April 14, 12-4 Walter Hall
 - Eva would be OU coordinator for the fair. STC could collaborate on a table.
- Put MOUs on back table because of uncertain funding.

8. 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.

9. Announcements and Other Business

10. Adjournment

- Gene Duebler motioned to adjourn. Tristan Kinnison seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next scheduled meeting March 13, 6pm