



Shade Tree and Beautification

April 27, 2021

Commission Meeting

Minutes

3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Susan Kahlrl	Board Member	Present	
Kate Burley	Board Member	Present	
James Brown	Chair	Present	
Brian Ball	City Engineer	Present	
Richard Dzik	Safety Service Director	Absent	
Colleen Clarkson		Present	
Quetin Platt		Present	

Brian Wade-Wade and Gatton Nursey
Judy Ashcraft-Recording Secretary

MINUTES APPROVAL

January 26, and March 30, 2021

Colleen Clark made motion to accept the January 2021 and March 2021 meeting minutes. Susan Kahlrl seconded the motion. AIF, motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Brown asked Shade Tree members how many hours they volunteered working on Shade Tree.

Susan Kahlrl - 1 hr.
Kate Burley- 40 hrs.
Jon May - 10 hrs.
Brian Wade -20 hrs.
Brian Ball - 80 hrs.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Square

Mr. Brown stated that he received some comments from the Tree Day on the Public Square on Facebook. They were good and bad comments, also questions about the mulch. Ms. Burley took care of the mulch questions.

Ms. Clarkson stated that she thinks we should do better to let the people know that we have brains behind this operation. Mr. Brown stated that Tanya, the Mayor's Secretary does the response to the Facebook questions.

Mr. Brown stated that the Buckeye tree has been planted on the Public Square. Mr. Brown asked if the watering system was repaired. Mr. Wade stated that he did not think so.

Mr. Brown asked if Mike Prydia had gone in and cleaned up and filled in his ruts yet on the square. Ms. Burley stated that he had.

Mr. Brown stated that his son ran into a guy that has a book that was published in the 1950's and it has a lot of history about the City of Mount Vernon. Mr. Brown stated that there were a couple of paragraphs about the day the Mason Lodge planted the Buckeye Tree and put a marker in. They put a bottle underneath the tree when they planted it with names of everybody that was **there a dinner** followed. Mr. Brown told Tanner Salyer's about it and Tanner asked if we found the bottle. Mr. Brown stated that we did not. Mr. May stated that it could be 3 or 4 feet under the ground.

Arbor Day/Dave Carpenter Dedication

Mr. Brown reminded everybody that this Friday is Arbor Day. At 1pm we will be doing a dedication to Dave Carpenter with his tree.

Mr. Brown stated that we will be at the East School at 2:30pm for the Arbor Day Celebration. Bill Seder is going to read a book and the Mayor will talk and then give his Proclamation. Wendy's will provide frosty's for each student in the school and a meal for each class. Mr. Brown stated that he is expecting a presentation from the students. Mr. Brown stated that celebration is to be out on the front lawn and have the students all packed up and ready to go and they can be dismissed after the presentation. If it is raining we will be in the gymnasium and there will be one representative from each class. Mr. Brown stated that we are dedicating 3 trees, 1 Oak on the west side and 2 Maples in the front of the building. Mr. Brown stated that there will be 150 student.

TCP 2021

Ms. Clarkson is getting calls from people that their bags do not work but she is taking care of it. Ms. Clarkson stated that she has passed on things and shared things with Quentin so that they could work on things together. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Clarkson if she saw the bags on her porch. She stated that she did.

Mr. Wade and Ms. Clarkson talked about 201 Pearl Ave., the owner wants a couple of trees planted. Mr. Ball stated that there is one person that wants the trees thinned out and one person that doesn't. We are going to do a little clean up, do half way in between what each of them wants. Mr. Ball stated that there is a dead end alley and different people from the city have been up there and we are probably going to put some kind of stormwater something in there in the next couple of years so if we thin a little of the trees now that would give us room to figure what to put in there. Mr. Wade stated that the lady at 201 Pearl Ave. wants a dogwood in the front of her house.

Ms. Burley asked if we need to order anymore water bags. Mr. May stated that he would see what we have in stock. Mr. Brown stated that when the water crew hangs their bags then we should go through and do a quick inventory and get ahead of getting low. Mr. May asked how many trees are planted. Ms. Burley stated that around 200.

Ms. Ashcraft stated that she received a phone call from Larry Patterson who said the trees that we planted on Howard Street, a lot of them are starting to lean. He has straightened some of them up but wanted to let us know. Mr. Wade stated that we should put water bags on them and straighten them up. Mr. Brown stated that the trees were planted with frozen balls and frozen ground. Jon May stated that he has around 200 stakes at the shop.

604 E. High Street-Ms. Clarkson stated that the Oak tree has not been replaced. There is a ribbon on the tree but it has not been removed yet. Mr. Wade will check it out.

29 Upland Terrace-Ms. Clarkson stated that we had the one house that we were going to at least plant around the box and stated that there is a plan for this. Mr. Ball stated that we are going to plant shrubs around the

concrete water release check valve system. Mr. Ball stated that we committed to planting on Upland Terrace but not Dogwood Terrace.

27 Longitude Drive- Ms. Clarkson stated that this is a new tree. Ms. Burley stated that this tree is not bagged because it is smaller than the bag. Ms. Clarkson stated to try to bag the tree.

Horn Beam trees on Pleasant and Main Street-Ms. Burley stated that the City Street Department will go in and dig those out. There are 6 dead ones and they are in the Historical District. Mr. Brown stated that this is a fall planting.

NEW BUSINESS

Bee City

Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Salyer's is not here to talk about Bee City. Mr. Platt stated that they did elect officers.

Shellmar Park

Mr. Brown stated that we had the Knox County Career Center build us an Arch for Shellmar Park to look like the Arch's in the other parks. Mr. Brown stated that he talked to Custom Cutters and they will powder coat the Arch and then took it back to the Career Center for them to work on. The Career Center called and told Mr. Brown that they will be leaving soon and will not have time to do the installation this year. Mr. Brown stated that hopefully the class will be able to finish the welding before they leave for the school year. Mr. Brown stated that we will have to store the Arch until next fall.

Main Street Mount Vernon

Main Street Mount Vernon-Mr. Brown stated that Main Street Mount Vernon has taken over Main Street, Mulberry St., Mechanic Street and Gay Street from Howard Street (the River) to Chestnut Street. This is now considered the Central Business District. They have a program that they will be doing maintenance on the tree pits, planting flowers and doing some things to bring the area up. We had a meeting with them and they wanted to know if the Shade Tree Commission would be financially supportive with their program. Mr. Brown stated that he told them that we would plant trees, shrubs and flowers to some extent and we would pay for them. Mr. Brown stated that he talked to John Campbell with the Landscape and Design class and he is willing to give us two days to plant Daffodil bulbs or some kind of bulb through that area. They will plant 1500 bulbs. Mr. Campbell's concern is the new tree pits that we built, we had rebuilt them and made them bigger but they get a lot of salt and he was afraid of salt damage on the daffodils. Mr. Brown said he would talk with Leo Burpee to see if they had anything that was salt tolerant but would still give us a spring flower but he has not heard back from them yet.

Mr. Brown stated that he received a text that TD Landscape is dumping too much mulch on the tree pits on Main Street. Kate and Jim Brown will look at this after the meeting.

Mr. Brown stated that the rain garden on the south side of the river is not part of the river district. Mr. Brown stated that Ms. Burley worked out with the City and Ariel Foundation that TD Landscape will go in and clean the water gardens because they are so full of thistles and other stuff. The plan is if we can get them in there for a year and they can get it cleaned up then maybe it could be maintained more easily in years to come.

Milkweed

Mr. Brown stated that last year John Campbell could not grow milkweed and this year Mr. Brown bought him a big bag of milkweed seed and gave him instruction and now he has 1000 milkweeds. Mr. Brown stated that we will probably have to pick them up in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Brown stated that he would pick an area and have Jon May mow it as tight as he can and we are not going to do the round up and hope we can get a better yield. The plan is to dig a hole and take the sod out and plant the milkweed in that spot so that we have no competition in that 1 foot diameter hole.

Mr. Platt stated that it might be easier to till the ground. Mr. Ball stated that Ohio Rental has a turf remover, it takes about a foot wide and you can cut it and roll it up. Mr. Ball stated that this might be easier than tilling it up. Mr. Platt will follow up on this idea.

Tree City 2022 - Ms. Clarkson stated there were no updates at this time on Tree City 2022

Tree City 2021 - Ms. Clarkson stated Tree City 2021 was cancelled for this year.

Mr. Brown stated that he and Mr. Platt were talking about the old football field, Mr. Platt suggested that we make it a Dog Park. Mr. May said there was talk about it and money would be a factor. The people they were talking to suggested there be two fences in one. One for the little dogs and one for the big dogs. They also suggested a three gate system. Mr. Ball stated that Tanner Salyer is working on this project.

Ms. Burley stated that we will be working at Columbia School, the Heart of Ohio Trail. Mr. Ball stated that there is a lot of junk that needs to be cleaned up there.

ADJOURN

Ms. Clarkson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Platt seconded the motion. AIF, meeting adjourned.