



Shade Tree and Beautification

October 31, 2023

Commission Meeting

Minutes

3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Matthew T. Starr	Mayor	Absent	
James Brown	Chair	Present	
Brian Ball	City Engineer	Absent	
Colleen Clarkson	Board Member	Present	
Quetin Platt	Engineering Dept.	Present	
Duane Barber	Board Member	Present	
Jon May	Parks Department	Present	
Sarah Wagner	Board Member	Present	
Laura De Leon	Board Member	Present	

Judy Isett - Recording Secretary
Brian Wade-Wade and Gatton
Scott Zimmerman-Complete Maintenance
Zane Mikesell - Engineering Depart.

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - Sep 26, 2023 3:00 PM

Colleen Clarkson made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2023 Shade Tree Commission.
Duane Barber seconded the motion, AIF, motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Brown stated that our funds are in good shape and he closed a couple of P.O.'s so that we can add some new things this year, The money should all be spent for the year..

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Planting Plan

Mr. Wade stated that the planting at AFP is half planted. Ms. Clarkson asked about the Arborvitae's at MVNU.
Mr. Wade stated that he has not yet got to them. He is having trouble getting them market out.

Dan Emmett Park

Dan Emmett Park- This is along Taylor Rd. where we have all the Swamp White Oaks are and talked about putting a second row in but with the Community Development Block Grant coming in next year, part of that area is going to be a retention pond. Mr. Brown tried to get the retention pond moved down closer to the cemetery along Wooster Rd. between the pump house and the office so that we could keep the green space open but it becomes a water way once it gets past Taylor Rd. Mr. Brown stated that we are not aloud to turn a waterway into a retention pond. We plan to get the trees in this year. After the Area Block Grant for that neighborhood which we as the Shade Tree Commission committed \$10,000.00 in trees for that program for next year and will come out of our budget. There are four projects which are, the Traffic Signal Project, CDBG Neighborhood Project, Mansfield Ave. Waterline Project and the Mansfield Ave. Shared Use Path. Mr. Brown stated that as these are completed we will be in there planting.

Sandusky & High St.

Mr. Brown stated that he saw a sign on Sandusky Street that said "Trucks entering and leaving," does that mean they are coming in to work on the sidewalks. Mr. Platt stated that the contractor is done in Mount Vernon for the year, so they will not be working on the sidewalk project until next year.

Mr. Brown stated that there are 5 Beech trees on the corner of West High St. and Sandusky St. that has suffered long enough and Mr. Zimmerman pulled them out and we are going to plant Locus trees there.

Grants

Ms. Clarkson stated that we have had a very full year, the Arbor Trust Fund we will be spending the money. Ms. Clarkson stated that we have been prioritizing when flags need to go down and determining the pacing for that. She would like to focus on the West End next year. Ms. Clarkson asked Mr. Platt if Mr. Ball has any interest in work on the West side or will there be any Grants for trees. Mr. Platt stated said he was not sure but does know we are planning on doing some work there if we can get the funding for the project.

Mr. Brown asked about the grants for the High School. Ms. Clarkson stated that we still have removals and still some other plantings to go in at the Central Offices and at the middle school. Ms. Clarkson stated that she has found that the grant money is being used for maintenance and not just for planting. This is beyond all of the work that Scott Zimmerman does.

Mr. Brown stated that we have 313 usable water bags and 313 water buckets are good. Mr. May stated that we lost 43 trees at the lagoon to rodents. Mr. Brown is going to order more water bags. Ms. Clarkson stated that we have about 300 trees so we will need more.

Scott Zimmerman Update:

Mr. Zimmerman stated that this is the last month on the grant for him and he plans on getting the rest of the stakes and also there are some dead trees between Lowes and the Hospital that needs to be removed. There is a Hibiscus that needs trimmed on the west end. This will be the last invoice for this year.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he went over to AFP and helped the Fire department with the burn. The wind was a little brisk so it burned underneath and did not get everything on top but will be manageable. He talked to the Fire Chief and this will be done every other year to keep everything cut. All of the Autumn Olive that was treated is dead and can be brush hogged and chopped up.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he is running for County Commissioner next year. He said that is something that he has wanted to do but can also do another job to.

Mr. Zimmerman asked Mr. Brown for John's phone number at the Career Center so he can get a schedule to work with the kids to show them how to auger holes.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that we should get some stakes for the cemetery.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that for this month he will be doing stakes, removals and fertilizer.

Mr. Zimmerman asked Mr. Brown how many trees there were at Hiawatha Park. Mr. Brown stated 86 trees.

TCP-Update

Ms. Wagner stated that she has a final count of 36 applications for trees on the Sychar Road neighborhood. Mr. Wade stated that we should start flagging shortly, probably after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Barber stated that he is at 34 trees in 21 homes. He has some that are going to reapply next year that wants more trees. Mr. Brown asked if we are putting names on the flags for TCP. Mr. Wade stated that it helps to put the names on the flags. Mr. Barber stated that they can do that.

Riverside Park and Arch Ave.

Mr. Brown stated that we did get the pad and the Arch in at Riverside Park, the Knox County Career Center students finished this up.

NEW BUSINESS

Bee City:

Mr. Platt stated that the burn was done last Wednesday and didn't go as planned because there is still golden rod that is left and is known as a native invasive and can take over a prairie if you don't stay ahead of it.

Mr. Platt stated that there are a couple of things from the research that we have done that we can do, at this point the best options is to collect the seeds using a leaf sucker, from information he has gathered is not the best option, or we can use a bagger. Mr. Platt stated that we might be renting or hiring somebody that has a commercial size bagger to go through and mow down the golden rod and bag up as much of the seed. Mr. Platt stated that there is a mowing prescription that we can do over the next couple of years to help with that also. It is a 6 inch mow in June and then you mow it to a foot in August and do that for two years and it is suppose to do a good job getting rid of the golden rod. Mr. Platt stated that during the burn they realized that one of the reasons that the goldenrod didn't burn as well is because of the tall grasses in the areas where we did have a lot of tall grass and there was goldenrod in the mix, the tall grass burned up and the all of the goldenrod seeds disappeared. In the areas where it was just wild flowers and there were not a lot of tall grasses that fire stayed low and it did not burn up to get the goldenrod. The mix that AFP is purchasing does have some tall grasses in it and that should help with that. Mr. Platt stated that Mr. Jason Bennett and himself have been out to the Harcourt Road areas which has been cleared last year where the Toshmahal were. Mr. Bennett has planted a couple of hundred Acorns, a couple of weeks ago we planted several Paw Paws and more seeds. They are waiting to hear back on a private donation to use to purchase additional trees in addition to the ones that were donated for that area. Mr. Platt stated that they only have 39 cages left and does not know how many more they would need and wanted to know if the Shade Tree would like to purchase more that they could borrow. He would find out how much they need for that area. Ms. Clarkson asked if they were seeds or trees. Mr. Platt stated that they planted seeds and they are having trees donated and would like to purchase trees.

Mr. Platt stated that they are trying to figure out how they are going to handle the ditch on Beech Street, they have some ideas but the main concern is that it is so wet and the seeds will wash out in a big rain. Mr. Platt stated that they have a lot of seeds and they plan on using them.

Mr. Brown stated that we lost all 25 of the Quaking Aspen in the Arboretum so the cages can be pulled and we lost 40 of the Chestnut trees and can take the cages off of them also.

Mr. Brown stated that we will be taking down fence between the railroad tracks and Shelmar Park, clean it and then put a new fence in there next spring.

We are winding down for the year and will not be meeting in December.

Arbor Day will be coming up in April. Ms. Clarkson stated that she did have some things that we were planting at the middle school and wondered if we could delay deciding because she thought about tying it into Arbor Day. Mr. Brown stated that we have done Arbor Day at the middle school.

Ms. Clarkson stated that we are planting a Bid John at Knox DD in their outdoor classroom. Mr. Brown and Ms. Clarkson thought that would be fun to do Arbor Day there..

Mr. May stated that there are some trees that need to be taken down where we are putting the Splash Pad, there are big Fern trees. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Keener if she knew the time line for the Splash Pad. Mr. Platt stated that the project is not out to bid yet and we are trying to do an unveiling in early December.

ADJOURN

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