



Shade Tree and Beautification

February 27, 2024

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	Present	
Colleen Clarkson	Board Member	Present	
Quetin Platt	Asst. Engineer	Present	
Duane Barber	Board Member	Present	
Sarah Wagner	Board Member	Present	
Laura De Leon	Board Member	Present	
Randy Pursel	Park Department	Present	

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

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - Jan 30, 2024 3:00 PM

The minutes were not approved this month because there was not a quorum. They will be approved at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Brown stated that we are still working off of the interim budget

SUSAN GIVENS-TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

Susan Givens-Town and Country Garden Club:

Ms. Givens stated that the Town and Country Garden Club has money to donate. Ms. Givens stated that a few years ago Mr. Ball came and spoke to the garden club about the City Parks and a Master Plan. She understands that the Master Plan has been approved. Ms. Givens asked what the Master Plan need in the way of plants and would like to know what is on the wish list in the way of green things.

Mr. Brown stated that at Memorial Park they were going to redesign the ball fields and some of the other parks got athletic equipment or exercise equipment, we can not plant anything until everything is done. Ms. Givens stated that

if there is not anything immediately on the wish list for plantings we will wait on giving the money. Ms. Wagner stated that last month Brian Wade brought up that maybe Daffodils could be naturalized somewhere and asked if this was a possibility. Mr. Brown stated that this was a possibility and we have planted daffodils before at various locations. Ms. Givens told Ms. Wagner that she was in charge of letting her know when this commission is ready to use the money for plantings.

Mr. Platt stated that we will be putting up a Splash Pad at Riverside Park and the next thing we will be working on this fall or next Spring or winter is installing a bathroom at Harmony Playground at Memorial Park. The Parks Master Plan does not get to detailed and is pretty vague and does not show areas of design. Mr. Platt stated that Shelmar Park is a new park and there is some green space but there are gas lines that take up most of that. Ms. Givens stated that they should wait until we have a wish list.

OLD BUSINESS

Fall Plantings

TCP

Mr. Brown stated that the TCP program went very well this year with 77 trees planted this year.

Grants

Mr. Brown stated that Ms. Clarkson manages all of these grants. Mr. Brown stated that now that TCP is done where are you going next to plant trees.. Mr. Wade stated that they will be working on South Division and Martinsburg Rd. Mr. Brown stated that he needs to flag the Human Society and asked if Mr. Wade was going to be in the area he will do this first. Mr. Wade said that was the plan. Mr. Brown stated that he has the Fire Station on his list to replace a couple of trees. There are three Swamp White Oaks we are going to put at the concession stand at Memorial Park and replace the four Oak trees at Ariel.

Mr. Brown asked what the time line was on Sandusky Street sidewalk. Mr. Platt stated the construction should happen this year.

BEE CITY

Mr. Platt stated that they planted all of the trees, forbes and shrubs that they had yesterday. Mr. Zimmerman was to get all of the cages rounded up and will work with Scott or the Parks Department to go get them.

Mr. Brown stated that we had 58 Chestnut trees survive out of 98 and he thinks we should water them again this year.

Mr. Platt stated that Bee City will have a table at First Friday again this year. Mr. Platt will get a quote for the table fee so that we can get a purchase order ready.

Mr. Platt stated that we are going to hold off on planting the ditch on Beech Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day

Mr. Brown stated that we are going to meet with Knox County Head Start after the meeting today to discuss the program for the Arbor Day Celebration. Arbor Day is April 26, 2024 at Knox DD and we are planting a Big John tree in their outdoor Environmental area, they call it the Canoe. One of the children asked if an Apple Tree could be planted there because he liked Apple trees. Mr. Brown stated that this is something that they can talk about today and maybe put in apple trees for them.

Mr. Brown stated that there needs to be more trees planted at Knox DD.

OTHER

Gambier Park- The trellis had clematis planted on it and we put knock out roses in the rose beds. The clematis died so we need another one planted and another two or three roses.

Mr. Brown stated that we purchased 100 water bags from AM Leonard and thinks we should order another 100 bags since we are going to have a lot of trees.

Tree City Banquet is May 9, 2024 in Worthington, Ohio. We will receive a Tree City Growth Award and Tree City Award and is for anyone that wants to go, please let Jim Brown know if you want to go.

Mr. Brown stated that two years ago we did a Volcano Mulch flyer in with the water bill and thinks it would be a good year to do it again. He would also like to do one with the Spotted Lantern Fly. Mr. Brown stated that they have been spotted in the Cleveland area last spring and made it into Columbus. They love grapes, tree of Heaven but will kill anything. Mr. Mikesell asked if we could talk to Head Start about doing a small program to do an outreach for awareness. Mr. Platt suggested that we have a Shade Tree table or share a table with Bee City on First Friday's. We could get a volunteer there once a month and talk about trees and promote Tree City Partners and hand out flyers. Mr. Brown stated that a few years ago at First Friday we brought the Water Truck in and had the water truck sitting on the square and we gave away Bare Root Dogwoods and most of the people that took them were not from Mount Vernon.

ADJOURN

Ms. Wagner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. DeLeon seconded the meeting. AIF, meeting adjourned.