



Shade Tree and Beautification
Commission Meeting

Minutes

March 25, 2025
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	
Quetin Platt	Assistant Engineer	Present	
Sarah Wagner	Board Member	Present	
Laura De Leon	Board Member	Present	
Randy Pursel	Parks Department	Present	
Emil Diener	Board Member	Present	
Russ Mentzer	Board Member	Present	
Samara Davis	Board Member	Present	

Brian Wade-Wade and Gatton Nursery
April Brady-Filling in for Judy Isett / Recording Secretary
Zane Mikesell - Engineering Department
Rich Carson-Citizen

MINUTES APPROVAL

February 25, 2025

Approval for the February minutes will be delayed until the April meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Brown stated that we are in good financial shape. He thought the water bags were going to be around \$12,000.00 but ended up only being \$10,800.00. We will only need to take \$7400.00 out of this years budget.

OLD BUSINESS

Columbus Delano Pollinator Trails

Columbus Delano Pollinator Trails - Last time we talked there was soil to be spread and we were going to do a ground cover. Mr. Platt stated that Mr. Zimmerman had talked to United Ag about getting the soil spread. Mr.

Platt was going to talk to Scott Zimmerman about a ground cover. Mr. Platt thought planting a quick seeding flower like sunflowers and then plant rye for a ground cover.

Heartland Commerce Park

Mr. Brown stated that he has a meeting with them on the 4th of April. They have decided they want to plant the trees. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Wade's and his concern is that it is getting late in the season to be digging up trees but there are several varieties that you can dig up now.

Arbor Day

Dan Emmett School has been selected for the celebration and it will be April 25, 2025. We plan to plant a tree at the retention pond and a Bald Cypress will also be planted there.

TCP

Mr. Wade said that they are hoping to start Monday. He stated that Sandusky Street is done. Pleasant and Catherine Street he is getting the trees marked out. The trees at the Mount Vernon Inn are done.

Grants

Public Square-Arboretum

Mr. Mikesell is working on the application to make the public square an Arboretum and we should get resignation this summer. Mr. Brown stated that there are a few more trees that need identified. He said that we will be putting a new larger Kiosk on the square with QR codes. The Kiosk we have now faded and hard to read.

NEW BUSINESS

ODNR Grant

Fiona in the Engineering Department is working on the ODNR Grant. Mr. Brown went to a meeting presented by the North Central Pollinator Pathway Group and there was some good information. There is a Grant workshop on March 27, 2025 concerning this grant and will know if they are still going to fund it.

Bee City

Mr. Platt stated that they did live staking, they cut branches and stuck them along the river bank. There were around 220 of them. A week later they went back to the river and found some Willow and some Dogwood that they cut live stakes from and put those along the river banks. They went from Arch Ave. Park to the bridge and were looking for areas that were bear and trying to establish things closer to the river. Last week they planted 37 trees at the Lime ponds from the Waste for Wildlife, which is a EPA Grant.

Ms. Wagner state that Susan Gibson wanted to recommend a local artist to do artwork for the Columbus Delano Field of Discovery and did not know who to contact. Mr. Platt stated that the Safety Service Directors office is handling that part of the project.

OTHER

Mr. Pursel stated that he is waiting on their water equipment. The water bags are being delivered tomorrow. Mr. Brown stated that the status on the new water truck was being crated and should be shipped next week. Mr. Brown stated that he is still waiting on a meeting with the contractors who mow around the trees. He is needing to talk to them about not hitting the trees.

Mr. Mikesell stated that last year we sent out postcards to the west end which is prepaid for them to return if they want a tree. He would like to update the postcard to make it easier to use. He would like the board members ideas. Mr. Brown stated that a QR code would be easier and more cost effective.

Ms. DeLeon suggested that we do not have a return postcard. They should call, email or use QR code and all of the information should all be on one letter.

Mansfield Ave. Shared Use Path - This will be a 10 feet path going out to the east side of Mansfield Ave., starting at the school to Belmont Ave. Mr. Brown would like to get some trees along that path. Mr. Brown stated the project that the city did at Fearn Ave, Grange Ave. and Clinton Rd., some of the trees were removed and he would like to plant trees there. Also at the north side of West High Street and target those three areas.

Richard Carson would like Shade Tree members to come and check the trees on Upper Gilchrist Rd., that Schlabach put in and are not looking good. Mr. Brown stated that this will be put on next months agenda.

ADJOURN

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