



Shade Tree and Beautification  
Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 29, 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	
Quentin Platt	Asst. City Engineer	Excused	
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	
LaNan Hager	Board Member	Excused	

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

***February 25, 2025***

Mr. Diener made a motion to accept the February 25, 2025 and March 25, 2025 minutes. Ms. DeLeon seconded the motion. AIF, motion carries

- Shade Tree and Beautification - Commission Meeting - Mar 25, 2025 3:00 PM

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Brown stated that the only money that spent so far this year is on water bags and Water truck equipment. Mr. Mikesell asked when we would start watering trees. Mr. Brown said they will start next week.

**OLD BUSINESS**

***Columbus Delano Pollinator Trails***

***Heartland Commerce Park***

Mr. Brown stated that they have decided that they do want trees. Mr. Brown said Mr. Wade can plant the Arborvitae's but nothing else this year because it is getting to late to plant them. There are 45 Arborvitae's to be

planted around the area. The agreement was that they buy the water bags and we agreed to water them the first growing season. They are getting 184 trees.

### ***Arbor Day***

Dan Emmett was to host the Arbor Day Celebration but with construction going on around the school so they decided not to. Pleasant Street School has accepted the invitation to have the Arbor Day Celebration on May 9th, 2025 at 9:30am. Wendy's will be giving out Frosty's to every student and we will plant a Bald Cypress tree. Mr. Isett will take pictures. Mayor Starr will be there and read the Proclamation and Mr. Seder will read a book.

### ***TCP***

Ms. Wagner explained the program to the new members. They had 70 tree request this year. Mr. Brown stated that the program is up and running and they are getting trees in.

### ***Grants***

Mr. Brown stated that we targeted the west end and put in over 100 trees. Mr. Mikesell stated that we will be planting 465 trees in 2025 and we removed 40 trees this year.

### ***Public Square-Arboretum***

Mr. Mikesell is working on getting the square as an Arboretum.

### ***ODNR Grant***

Inflation Reduction Act-Mr. Brown stated that the grant fell through and all the people involved are not there anymore. Our plan for this grant was to plant trees at the Industrial Park, also for a Food Forest that Erin Salva was working on.

### ***Bee City***

Mr. Platt was not available to come to the meeting. Mr. Brown stated that as part of the Community Development Block Grant program, we put in bio retention pond at Dan Emmett. It is like a rain garden and is something that needs planted. First Friday is in June and Bee City will have a booth there.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Tree City Banquet***

The Tree City Banquet is May 8, 2025 in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Mr. Mikesell, Ms. DeLeon, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Isett will be attending. We will be receiving the Tree City USA award and the Tree City USA Growth Award, which we have received for the past 8-10 years.

### ***Target Area mailers***

Mr. Brown stated that he would like to stick with one letter that will have multiple ways to get a hold you us. The letter will have a QR code, e-mail address and a phone number as contact information. Commission members agreed on sending one letter with the contact information included.

### ***Gilchrist Estates***

At the last meeting, Mr. Larson stated that the trees at Gilchrist Estates are dying and wants the City to get after the contractor. Mr. Brown stated that as of right now this property is not City property. He is going to give this

to Mr. Diener since this is something he has done. Mr. Brown sent an email went out to commission members showing a layout of where the subdivision was to have the tree plantings, a preservation program and the list of tree removals that had to be done. Mr. Larson said at the last meeting that he did not think the contractors are doing what they should be doing with the trees. Mr. Brown told Mr. Larson that they would review the plans and would then set up a time to go out and walk the trees and see which ones were in compliance and then get back with the contactor and ask them if they would take care of the trees better if the case might be. Mr. Brown will put this back on the agenda for next month and hopefully Mr. Larsen will be here.

### **Water Truck**

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Pursel if he had the water list and if he received the parts for the water truck. Mr. Pursel stated that he did have the water list and he just received the parts for the water truck.

### **OTHER**

Mr. Mikesell stated that we would start focusing on a Pear tree removal program. We have contracted to remove 80 Pear trees that are in the right-of-way and will be replacing them with native trees. There are 600 to 800 Pear trees in the city, not all of them are in the right of way but we plan to get rid of them.

Mr. Mikesell stated that we are talking about giving people who have Pear trees on private property a voucher for a tree if they get rid of the Pear tree. Ms. Wagner asked if this was a specific grant. Mr. Brown stated that we have talked to a grantor about doing a grant for this. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Platt and himself had a meeting with International Paper about helping sponsor the program and they were interested. Mr. Mikesell stated that we also talked to Ariel Foundation about help sponsoring and they are interested. Mr. Wade can provide 3 gallon potted trees for the voucher.

Mr. Mentzer asked if there is a balance of when we take down so many trees that we replace them with how many trees were removed. Mr. Mikesell stated yes, but since we are planting so many more trees than we are taking down there is not an actual balance.

Mr. Brown stated that Scott Zimmerman has been our maintenance person but now works for the City, so he can't do it anymore. Mr. Mikesell said that we are looking for someone to replace him.

Mr. Mikesell stated that he has a watering list for Randy Pursell, Parks Department Director. This list is for all the trees Mr. Wade has planted for the City that needs water bags. He will email Mr. Pursel a list of water bags. Mr. Mikesell stated that we were given 100 American Chestnut trees earlier last week and we planted them yesterday at West Ariel Park. We are looking to fence them in and doing a pest management on them. Mr. Mikesell stated that he was also given 100 to 150 Persimmon starts from someone from Columbus and we will be planting them around the city.

He stated that more seeds were planted at the ditch on Beech Street.

Mr. Brown said that everyone should have received an email from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning about their sustainability. They have a vision and would like feed back on what we would like to see. We are always planting trees.

Mr. Brown stated that the Giant Sequoia trees are grown in California but there are people growing them in Michigan and they have one that is 120 years old. Last week Detroit Michigan started planting them in vacant lots. Mr. Brown would like to get some Sequoia starts and plant them at the Blackjack Road prairie. We can get 5 of them; for \$49.00 plus shipping. He would like to get 10 of them. Ms. Wagner stated that we should order more since we do not know how many will survive. Ms. Wagner made a motion to order 25 Giant Sequoia starts. Mr. Mentzer seconded the motion. AIF, motion carries.

LeNan Hager is a new Council Member and was assigned to the Shade Tree Commission.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Mentzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. DeLoan seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.