



Shade Tree and Beautification
Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 24, 2025
3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

There was not a quorum to make a motion to start the meeting.

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

Zane Mikesell
Brian Wade
April Brady- Filling in for Judy Isett Recording Secretary
Rachel Wilson

MINUTES APPROVAL

Minutes for April 29 & May 27, 2025

There was not a quorum, so the minutes were not approved. They will be approved at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

TCP

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Wade if he had 20 trees left to plant and if they were TCP trees. Mr. Wade stated that he believes so.

Grants

Mr. Brown asked if all the trees in the West End are in with the grant. Mr. Wade said yes.

Mr. Mikesell, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Wade planned to drive around to look at trees on Friday. They are going to look at trees that didn't do well from last year and some of the older trees.

Public Square-Arboretum

Mr. Brown said that Good Impressions will make the Kiosk. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Mikesell identified 3 sites where they would like to plant trees to get above the minimum requirement. Mr. Mikesell said they need to look at the irrigation plans.

Gambier Historical Park Marker

Mr. Brown said he has most of the information except for the verbiage. Mr. Brown said they need verbiage before going to city council.

Target Area Mailers

Mr. Brown showed a flier that we are sending out for mailers. He told commission members that if they want to change anything, to let him know.

Bee City

Mr. Platt said that at First Friday, they were set up across from Bickerdykes. Mr. Platt said that an Invasive Removal event is scheduled for Saturday along the Kokosing River near Riverside Park. They are going to do what they can do by hand to tidy things up. Mr. Platt said they are going to remove small honeysuckle and other things that are starting to come up. He said they are laying low until the fall when they are ready to go to the Delano Field of Discovery to re-seed. Mr. Platt said they are always keeping their eyes out for any other areas they can convert to prairie. Mr. Platt said they would be planting a rain garden at Dan Emmitt later this summer.

Mr. Brown passes around a map of the Delano Field of Discovery for commission members to look at. Mr. Brown talked about making each cell unique of what is planted in it. Mr. Brown stated that they seeded the North side of the ditch on Beech St. They did not see a lot of growth this year. There are a lot of perennials in the mix, so it may be a year or two before they see growth. They can always seed it again in the fall with the perennials and native grasses. Mr. Brown said that Mr. Wade bought a bag of fertilizer. He would like to have the water truck mix the fertilizer in a few times throughout the summer.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER

Mr. Pursel said the trees on High St and others need to be trimmed. Mr. Mikesell said they just received a quote today to take care of all the street trees from East McKenzie St over to Norton St from Chestnut St to Ohio Ave to be pruned. Mr. Brown asked if the Parks and Street employees were going to go to a two week training on tree trimming. Mr. Platt and Mr. Mikesell said they might be, but it is not the experience they needed to properly prune a tree.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Pursel if water trucks were working well. Mr. Pursel said yes since they got the electrical issue fixed. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Pursel if they would be able to properly mix the fertilizer. Mr. Wade, Mr. Pursel, and Mr. Platt said they would be able to figure it out.

Mr. Wade asked if they are watering the tree at Ariel Foundation Park. Mr. Pursel said yes.

Mr. Brown would like to get tree guards at Ariel Foundation Park. They put 68 trees in setback area and 68 at Hiawatha Park. Mr. Brown said they would use more of the 3" square plastic grid. He said the grid can be wrapped around and zip tied together. Mr. Brown said they could put the grid around the trees and it won't affect the bark. It

would also help keep the deer off. These grids can last multiple years. Mr. Brown said they are going to buy 150 of the grids. Mr. Pursel asked who would put the grids on the trees. Mr. Brown said he would do it himself.

Mr Brown said he is getting a bid to put fence around the sequoias. This will be a fall project. Ms. Wagner asked how big the saplings are. Mr brown said 2".

Mr Brown said he would like to do an arch for Captain Hunter's Landing. Mr. Brown passes around a proposed arch design with Captain Hunter's Landing on one side and the Rotary Playground on the other side.

Mr. Brown went to The Salvation Army. They talked with the person in charge and told them they would like to put some trees around the property and in the playground at no cost to them.

Mr. Brown said they would do Arbor day at Salvation Army.

Mr. Mikesell went to Mt. Vernon News renovation project to discuss trees on the property.

Ms. Wagner commented on the letter that Mr. Brown asked them to review. She said they need to change the wording from along to in.

Ms. DeLeon asked if there could be something on a website that can show how the tree planting has been progressing over the years.

Ms. Wagner suggested that each year be a different color.

Mr. Mikesell said they could make something like that such as an overlay. Mr. Mikesell said they had inventories all street and city trees as of 2016 or 2017. He said they could do another survey and start surveying all Shade Tree trees every year. He said all past trees would be one layer, but moving forward, they can add different layers for each year.

Mr. Brown said the City is only 19% canopy. Mr. Mikesell said he would like to see 30% in 10 years.

Mr Brown asked if Mr. Wade had looked at the tree at S. Main and Lapaloma. Mr. Wade said it was dead.

Ms. Wagner said that on some of the city streets where there are no trees, there is also no tree lawn. Ms. Wagner asked if there was a chance for streets without pits to get trees in the future. Mr. Mikesell said it would be doable, but expensive. He said they can't put trees where utilities are. Mr. Mikesell said it would be a long-term goal. Mr. Mikesell said he would be asking developments to put tree pits in front of properties. Mr. Brown said that 3 years ago, it cost \$600 to install a tree pit.

Mr. Brown said the timeline for Sandusky St is to start in 2026. Mr. Brown said there are 2 empty pits on Mulberry St.

Ms. DeLeon asked if there is a way to get money for planting trees right outside city limits. Mr. Brown said city money is used in city and grant money can be used for out of city trees.

ADJOURN

There was not a quorum to make a motion to end the meeting.